The Middlebury Campus

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MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE

The new class of Febs came to campus on Wednesday, Feb. 7, for orientation.

'We Are Travelers,' Patton Says in Interview

By ETHAN BRADY
Editor in Chief

This transcript has been abridged for print. For a full version, go to www.middleburycampus.com.

President Laurie L. Patton spoke for an hour with three Campus reporters last month in a wide-ranging interview which was by turns personal and philosophical.

Amelia Pollard '20.5, Elizabeth Zhou '18 and Ethan Brady '18 interviewed Patton in her office on Jan. 31. Bill Burger, the college's spokesman, was in the room for the duration of the interview.

The Campus agreed to provide Patton a summary of topics from which questions would be drawn, but not to give any questions in advance. The interview touched on Patton's vision for the institution as well as topical issues, including free speech and the Me Too movement.

Patton said Middlebury is "committed to the First Amendment principles of free speech and by extension, academic freedom. That's part of who we are as an American institution."

"It is our responsibility to cultivate in our students active and critical inquiry which means exposing them to ideas that may be uncomfortable," she said.

Patton called Charles Murray's visit to campus last March "painful and difficult."

"I have learned from and been forever changed by the degree to which people were hurt by the events that occurred — both on our campus and beyond," Patton said.

Patton shared several personal anecdotes in the interview. She said she practices scholarship for an hour a day. She also shared some of her personal hobbies, including vipassana meditation and walking her dogs.

"Dogs keep you completely grounded. They don't care about their image or reputation," she said.

When asked who she turns to for advice, Patton spoke about a group of women presidents that she belongs to. The women "have started to hang out together, talk to each other, call each other when things are tense or when they need to talk through problems," she said.

In response to a question about how she sees her role as president, Patton said she was committed to Middlebury's values on a personal level.

"I wouldn't have come to Middle-

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ELIZABETH ZHOU: If you could travel back to the moment you became the 17th president of Middlebury College, what advice would you give yourself?

LAURIE PATTON: I would say a couple things. The first is that I would make sure that when you think you know a community, you really know a community. Make sure you listen carefully to the ways in which your assumptions about a community might be different than reality. I think that's just good advice for any college president or any new leader.

I also think being a dean of a larger institution is 80 percent the same as being the president of a smaller one. But there are ways in which being a president has a bigger scope of a job. You are accountable to more constituencies. So I have seven constituencies I'm accountable to — students, staff, faculty, alums, parents, trustees and donors. The town and the state are also key constituents.

AMELIA POLLARD: How do you see the relationship of the college to the town?

PATTON: We are deeply connected to the community in a number of different ways. I think that there is only one question the president of Middlebury has to ask the community: "What do you need and how can we help?" and, very particularly, "How can we help on projects of common educational purpose?"

We have a project underway with Habitat for Humanity, which is a perfect Middlebury project. We are working on a plan to donate land to build Habitat houses. The Art and Architecture faculty are interested in creating courses to help design these houses in an advanced, environmentally sensitive way. These are ways in which the partnership with the community has been highly productive. And it's energizing for all of us. It's what a good college should be doing.

ZHOU: Knowing that you occupy a unique position with a lot of responsibilities, to whom do you look for professional guidance?

PATTON: I have network of people I speak with. There's a group of women presidents who talk to each other, call

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Patton Interview Was Delayed at Spokesman's Request

By ELIZABETH SAWYER
News Editor

College spokesman Bill Burger requested that the editors of this paper delay publication of an interview with President Laurie L. Patton, which The Campus had originally planned to publish in the Feb. 15 issue, after confusion and disagreement between Burger and Ethan Brady '18, the paper's editor in chief, regarding the nature of Burger and Patton's role in reviewing and influencing the article's content.

Burger's request for the delay came twenty-four hours before that week's issue was sent to print, and after the editors had planned to dedicate more than a page of the paper to the interview and a related news report. Brady agreed to postpone the interview and, as a result, The Campus published a blank page with the text, "This page was originally reserved for an interview," printed in the center of page A3.

"Laurie and I would like you to hold the interview until the issue that closes next week," Burger wrote in an email to Brady and Will DiGravio '19, The Campus' managing editor. "I have real concerns about ensuring the integrity of the various versions of the Q&A that we'll need to review. My schedule tomorrow leaves almost no time for me to do this work."

Brady and editors Amelia Pollard '20.5 and Elizabeth Zhou '18 interviewed Patton during winter term on Wednesday, Jan. 31. The editors planned to publish the interview in the first issue back from break, until Brady and DiGravio received the email from Burger quoted above.

The Campus finalizes print editions on Tuesday evenings, and the newspaper is distributed every Thursday morning. Brady and DiGravio received Burger's email at 10:50 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 12, disrupting the paper's plan to publish the interview that week. Brady agreed to delay the article's publication in an email to Burger that night.

Brady and DiGravio first requested an interview with Patton in a Jan. 19 email. Patton replied on Jan. 23 with a directive to discuss terms of the interview with Burger.

"My guess is that we all would want the interview to be fair, accurate, and thoughtful in both tone and content," Patton wrote. "In that spirit I'll turn it over to Bill to discuss terms."

That evening, Burger, Brady and DiGravio settled on a time to discuss the terms and timing of the interview. They settled on terms and scheduled the interview for Jan. 31 at 1:30 p.m.

At the end of the interview, Burger reiterated the previously agreed upon terms, and the reporters again agreed to them.

"Just to review our ground rules for this," Burger said. "So you'll transcribe this, I'm presuming, you'll send it to us for a clarification, any clean up, if we need to expand on something, but not to fundamentally change the meaning of what was said."

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Bill Burger, the college's spokesman.

"Does that sound reasonable?" Patton asked. Brady and Zhou responded in agreement.

On the Wednesday following the interview, Brady sent Patton an email with remaining questions that the editors had run out of time to ask, per an agreement made before and during the interview.

"We will send a transcript of the interview along in the next few days as discussed," Brady added in the email with the additional questions.

On Feb. 5, Brady emailed Burger with the transcript of the interview. Burger replied on the same day that he expected the editors to compress the interview due to its length.

"No one wants to inflict an unedited 9,000 word transcript on the reader; its of almost no value," Burger wrote.

Though Burger made some suggestions as to the type of editing Brady should do to the interview, he made no explicit request for an edited version of the transcript.

Brady received no further correspondence from Burger until Monday, Feb. 12, the first day of the spring term, when Burger inquired about obtaining an edited transcript of the interview. But Brady had sent the full, unedited transcript on Feb. 5, and had not finished editing the interview.

Burger expected Brady to send him the edited transcript of the interview that he would read before publication, and to allow him to approve each of Patton's quotes to be included in the article.

"We will need to approve every quote — and of course the quotes in the piece will need to match the quotes in the abridged Q&A — and the full Q&A online," Burger replied.

At 10:50 that evening, Burger emailed Brady and DiGravio and asked them to wait to publish the interview until the following week, citing "concerns about ensuring the integrity of the various versions of the Q&A that we'll need to review."

Brady agreed to delay publishing the articles. The next day, Burger emailed Brady, again asking for the edited Q&A and article.

"I hope you can get me the edited content (interview and written piece) by Sunday noon so I have time to look at it Sunday," Burger wrote. "My Monday is pretty booked."

On Feb. 14, Brady sent Burger an abridged transcript of the Q&A as requested, but did not attach the additional article. Brady said that he perceived Burger's wish to approve the quotes included in the story as a violation of their original terms.

"The terms of the interview were that we would send you a transcript for clarifications/additions, not negotiate which quotes can or can't be used in an article," Brady wrote in the email.

Burger denied wanting to influence the quotes The Campus included in the article, and stressed his desire to instead protect their "integrity."

"We have no interest in influencing which question/answers you want to touch upon in an article; our interest is in the integrity of the quotes themselves," Burger said.

Patton sent a document with edits for clarification to The Campus on Monday, Feb. 20. Burger did not ask to approve quotes or view the articles prior to press time.

LONG-TIME POSTAL CLERK PAMELA SANDS DIES

By SABINE POUX
News Editor

Pamela Sands, a long-time postal clerk at the college, died last Tuesday at her home after a brief illness. Sands worked at the college for over 34 years and was well known throughout the Middlebury community for her position at the student mail center. She was 54.

Sands was born in Germany in 1963 to Thomas Francis Sands Sr. and Angela Bonita (Vieland) Sands. She began working at Middlebury in 1983 as a temporary postal clerk and was promoted to full-time postal clerk five years later. In 2010 Sands was inducted into the college's 25-Year Club, which celebrates members of the college's staff and faculty that have worked at the college for 25 years.

Throughout her tenure at the college, Sands forged close relationships with her co-workers, many of whom were Middlebury students.

"When we learned of her passing, Nicole [Duquette] and I gathered with our student workers to share stories, memories, funny moments and tears. We are family. She was family," said Jacki Galenkamp, mail center supervisor, in an email to faculty and staff. Nicole Duquette is also a clerk in the mail center. "So, from the many students and coworkers whose lives you touched, we say 'see you later Pam!'"

Student postal clerk Lily Wilson '18, who worked with Sands for three years, added that she always took a genuine interest in hers and other student workers' lives.

"Pam ended up being one of the sweetest and kindest people I've had the pleasure of knowing at Middlebury," Wilson said. "It's hard to explain Pam to people who didn't know her: why it's funny how often she used hand sanitizer, how absurd it is that she came up to us searching the shelves to tickle us, her hilarious one-liners to chirp us, her love of playing matchmaker for all the mailroom employees. She was one of those people with such a unique personality that she can't be summed up in just a few sentences."

Sands is predeceased by her parents and her son, Christopher Ryan. She is survived by her significant other Michael Ryan and her sisters, lead mail service technician at the college Patty Murray and her husband Mark, and Johanna Freihofer and her husband Ed of Florida.

Friends and family of Sands

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Pamela Sands.

celebrated her life at the Middlebury American Legion on Monday. Duqette, Galenkamp and 20 past and present student mailroom employees attended the service, where they met Sands's family and shared stories and memories.

Sands was very fond of animals and her family requests that contributions be made in her honor to the Homeward Bound Addison County Humane Society at 236 Boardman Street, Middlebury, VT 05753.

"Her dream was to own a big house and provide a home for all cats in need," Galenkamp said.

Donations can be made online at www.homewardboundanimals.org/donate.

Colby Art Museum Receives $100 Million Gift

By ELAINE VELIE
News Editor

The Colby College Museum of Art received a 100 million dollar gift of around 1,150 works by over 150 artists, including Vincent Van Gogh, Georgia O'Keefe and Rembrandt. The art museum at Colby already stood out among those of the NESCACs, but it is now set to become a world-class museum.

The gift also provides for the establishment of the Lunder Institute for American Art, which will serve largely as a research center.

"As is true at most college museums, large gifts are more normally in the $1 million to $2 million range, and these occur only sporadically," said director of the Middlebury art museum Richard Saunders. "This gift to Colby is quite amazing. Rarely do small college museums receive gifts of this magnitude."

However, this massive gift is not an isolated occurrence for the Colby art museum. In 2007, the Lunders gave 500 works to the museum also valued at 100 million dollars, and in 2013, the museum opened the 15 million dollar Alfond-Lunder Family Pavilion to showcase the newly acquired works. The museum as it stands today already has five wings.

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The gift to the Colby Museum will include works of Georgia O'Keefe.

"Amongst the NESCAC schools there is an enormous range in museums," Saunders said.

A contributing factor to this discrepancy is age, since older museums have had more time to actively grow their collections. The Bowdoin art museum, for example, was established officially in 1894. Colby's museum was established in 1959. Middlebury's first art gallery was housed in Johnson in 1968, but the current museum was only established in 1992.

"Given that Middlebury's museum is relatively young, our museum does not have the depth of collections that some of our peers have, but we have made remarkable headway in building outstanding teaching collections of photography (both historical and contemporary), Asian Art, Antiquities (Near Eastern, Egyptian, Greek and Roman)," said Pieter Broucke, director of the arts.

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PATTON TALKS MIDDLEBURY'S ROLE IN SOCIETY

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bury if I didn't believe as a person that this institution's values were my own values," she said.

Patton fielded a question about financial aid, which she called "the number one priority for me for fundraising over the next ten years." She said she favored "slowly" growing the number of students on financial aid "in a way that's financially sustainable" and leaves a balanced budget.

But, Patton said, full-paying students are necessary for the school's current financial model.

When asked about how the college will distinguish itself in higher education, Patton described Middlebury as an "elite liberal arts college with fantastic graduate programs."

"I think there are days when we can't decide whether we're Amherst or Hampshire. We're in between those two places," she said.

Patton proposed ways for Middlebury to collaborate with other NESCAC schools beyond the athletic field. She cited Colby's museum of art, which last week received a $100 million gift to establish an institute for American art.

"Wouldn't it be interesting for them to collaborate with our museum, which is growing and changing and doing interesting things?" she said.

In the interview, Patton stressed her goal of balancing the institution's budget. She said that Middlebury was meeting its budget goals and surpassing them slightly. Monterey surpassed its own goals "at a greater percentage than the college has," she said, for which she was proud.

She defended how Monterey is valuable to Middlebury and to the world, citing the institute's consistent citing in New York Times articles on North Korea's nuclear weapons program.

Patton also spoke about national and world issues. She called economic inequality "one of the major issues of our time," and said that America is facing a "deeply difficult national moment." She also cited Britain and Europe, where in the past several years populist movements have upended governments and institutions.

"Our challenge at Middlebury is that we need to embrace the difficulty of that moment and live through it."

When asked about the nature of speech in the internet age, Patton said the instantaneous nature of communication "makes a huge difference to every minute of our days." Students in 2018 exist "in a public sphere that nobody else has existed in, ever."

It's "very difficult to figure out at any given moment whether something is a public conversation or whether it's a private conversation." Because of that, she said, participation in the public sphere "takes more courage today."

Patton often used terminology about travel to describe the school. "Middlebury now is not so much a noun, but a verb," Patton said. "We are travelers."

She mentioned travel across campuses — digital and physical. She cited interpreters for the United Nations who are affiliated with Monterey, professors who travel back and forth between Vermont and California, and video conferencing between Middlebury and Monterey, which occurred in the course on water Patton taught last spring.

Patton said she wanted to make sure "that instantaneous quality of life, as well as that hyper-connected quality of life, can be in service of liberal education."

She said the college's master plan, a campus planning document approved in 2008, should be connected to the school's mission and vision. She used the temporary computer science building being built behind Johnson Memorial Building, in E lot, as an example of how her administration has adapted to changing times.

"This campus was not built for students from underrepresented backgrounds," she said, but for "usually white" students in the 1800s going into "traditional male vocations."

The spaces between buildings could be populated with works of public art, she said. She encouraged students to propose "pop-up contemplative spaces" on campus through the Fund for Innovation. She also praised a proposal by the Anderson Freeman Center to paint murals in buildings around campus.

Patton also answered questions about the Me Too movement and its impact on the college.

She said the movement "opened up all sorts of really important issues for everyone, around questions of sexual assault, around questions of reporting, and so forth."

When asked how the college planned to address sexual assault in the wake of "The List," Patton spoke about the Title IX office.

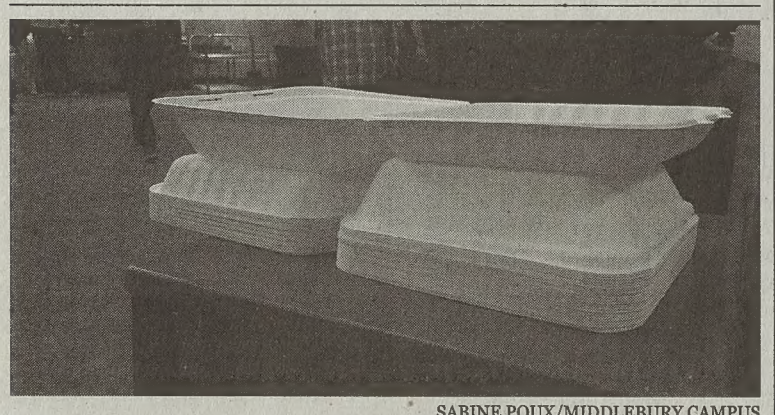
"If history is any indication, I expect and have confidence that the Title IX office will continue to respond to the needs of students," she said.

She said the Title IX office needs to "continue to respond" to the campus's changing needs while prioritizing "fairness for all students." The college's judicial system should be fair and open, she said, and the conversation about justice should be "always evolving."

She spoke about three kinds of justice: one of equality, one of equity, and a moral justice, which deals with "righting historical wrongs."

"All of those three ideas of justice should be at play in the mini-society that is Middlebury" — a society, she said, "of learners and teachers."

Amelia Pollard and Elizabeth Zhou contributed reporting.



SABINE POUX/MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

To-go boxes near the entrance to Proctor Dining Hall.

REUSABLE FOODWARE ON THE WAY

By BEN DOHAN
Contributing Writer

Dining services has ordered 2,000 reusable containers and is working with student authors of an SGA bill to create a reusable to-go container system. They hope to switch over to the system one week after students return from spring break.

The SGA bill was introduced on Jan. 28 by Leif Taranta '20.5, Sierra Moen '17.5 and Feb Senator and SGA Speaker Rae Aaron '19.5. It calls for the complete removal of to-go cups and containers from all dining halls in order to reduce waste generated by the college.

A straw poll within the SGA indicated support for the bill, though several senators were concerned with the loss of to-go cups. At this time, no official vote has been taken.

The college currently uses 241,000 non-compostable to-go cups per year and 181,000 containers, all of which end up in landfills. Although the containers are compostable, many are thrown away. Dining services spends about $21,000 each year on to-go cups and lids, as well as $27,000 on containers, and estimates that the proposed program would save them $12,000 in just the first year.

According to the proposed bill, the disposable containers would be replaced by reusable containers that students could check out. Each student would have to put down a deposit on a carabiner that would function as a token, which could be exchanged for a to-go box at the dining halls. When the box is returned, the student would be given another token to get a new box in the future. Dining services would then clean the containers for students. Students would be expected to provide their own travel thermoses if they wanted to take away hot drinks.

Students would pay five dollars at any campus retail location to get their first carabiners, which they could exchange for their five dollar deposits at any time. These deposits would be applied to their declining balances. If a student lost their carabiner or reusable container, they would have to pay another $5 to get a new carabiner.

The new containers cost the college $6,995 or $3.50 per container. The college also plans to purchase 2,000 carabiners, costing $1.15 each.

Sophomore Senator Jack Goldfield '20 and others voiced opposition to the initial five dollar buy-in. Other concerns included the ease of use of the new system and the availability and cleanliness of containers.

A pilot period for the to-go boxes occurred during December and one of the complaints of the otherwise-successful program was that the boxes were too big. "It would be too difficult from an operational standpoint to have multiple containers," said Dan Detora, head of dining. He also said that other colleges with similar reusable to-go container systems use only one container size.

Detora indicated that disposable silverware would stay. Disposable to-go cups will also still be available at the non-dining hall food locations campus, such as Wilson Café, but discounts will be offered for those students who bring reusable mugs to be filled there. Some locations, including Wilson and Crossroads, already offer discounts for reusable mugs, which would be advertised as part of the new program since many students are not aware of the discounts.

A clause in the bill stipulates that travel mugs and water bottles be made available for purchase at wholesale prices at college retail locations and that students receiving financial aid will receive funds to cover these additional costs.

President Announces Four New Projects

By BOCHU DING
Staff Writer

President Laurie L. Patton sent four school-wide emails last week outlining major projects occurring in the spring and following semesters. The emails laid out a variety of initiatives including accreditation, transformational goals for the institution, a contest for new traditions and restorative practices on campus.

In the first email, Patton announced that Middlebury's accreditation evaluation is scheduled for fall 2019. To prepare for the review, the college will launch a self-study addressing the New England Association of Schools and Colleges' (NEASC) nine standards for accreditation.

Interim provost Jeff Cason and associate provost for planning LeRoy Graham will co-chair the self-study, which will be coordinated by the Office of the Provost and will seek input from the steering committee.

A draft of the final self-study is projected to be finished by spring 2019 and then will be distributed among the Middlebury community for review. The NEASC will receive the final report from Middlebury in summer 2019 and its review team will visit several on-campus locations in the summer and fall.

In the second email, sent Wednesday, Feb. 14, Patton announced that the Board of Trustees endorsed three transformational goals for the college as next steps in the Envisioning Middlebury process. The committee that spearheaded the effort described the Middlebury they envision by pursuing their goals: Middlebury as a center for persuasive and inclusive dialogue, a laboratory for curricular innovation and experiential learning and a globally networked changemaker.

Small working groups of student leaders, faculty and trustees will collaborate this spring to identify objectives to forward the three goals. Provost Susan Baldridge will detail further instructions for how individuals can align their work with the strategic framework in the next few days.

The following day, Patton announced a contest for creating new traditions at Middlebury.

Submissions will be judged on the basis of five criteria, including an understanding and appreciation of Middlebury's 200 year history, capacity for community building and connections, recognition and celebration of our diverse and multifaceted campus, ingenuity and creativity that will inspire students and feasibility. One submission will be announced the winner by the end of April and will be instituted and fully funded by Old Chapel.

Patton ended the week's communication with an email announcing the adoption of restorative practices on Friday, Feb. 16. Patton emphasized that the restorative practices will not replace disciplinary processes, but that they will "exist alongside those processes."

The email announced the formation of a steering committee to implement restorative practices at the college. The committee will include one student who completed the restorative practices training in Dec. 2017, dean of students Baishakhi Taylor, dean of the faculty Andi Lloyd, chief diversity officer Miguel Fernández, general counsel Hannah Ross, vice president for human resources and risk Karen Miller, dean of spiritual and religious life Mark Orten and judicial officer Brian Lind.

The committee plans to organize several proactive circles this spring where members of the community will be invited to discuss the Committee on Speech and Inclusion's Jan. 10 report.

Patton also mentioned that incoming residential life staff will be trained to facilitate restorative practices.

Q&A Transcript with President Patton

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each other when things are tense or when they need to think through problems. And there are several male college presidents whose advice I value.

Family's always great, because you know they have your best interests at heart. It's also very important to me that I maintain my long-term friendships. Every day I get up and write to two or three friends, just as a form of gratitude. I also frequently just check in with them and see where they are. So every day I have a conversation with one or two friends that are completely unrelated to Middlebury.

ZHOU: Do you find personal opinions conflict with your opinions as a president?

PATTON: Yes. I wouldn't have come to Middlebury if I didn't believe that my values were not aligned with the institution's values. Every day I think about Middlebury's values, articulate Middlebury's values, promote them and talk about them. I do so because I'm committed to them personally. So that's the most important clarification that I would make.

ETHAN BRADY: What is the college doing to address socioeconomic disparity, in terms of both numbers and impacts on campus culture?

PATTON: I think there are two different ways you can address those issues. The first is increasing financial aid. As you know, financial aid remains my number one priority for fundraising over the next ten years. I think is essential that we increase the number — slowly — of people on Pell Grants, and that we increase the number of people on financial aid. That's the kind of work that I do — and love to do — every day.

Obviously, our financial model is such that right now, in order for us to provide the education that we do provide, full-paying students play a role. But the more we can create greater access through all the ways that we just talked about, in both getting into Middlebury, and then studying at Middlebury, the better off we'll be. And we need student leadership to help with that. Because the student experience at the everyday level is where we can get better.

POLLARD: What niche do you think Middlebury occupies amongst the other NESCAC schools and in the larger scope of higher education? How are we going to continue to differentiate ourselves moving forward?

PATTON: On certain days — when I'm feeling like having a sense of humor — I think there are days when we can't decide whether we're Amherst or Hampshire. We're in between those two places. But if you actually look at us, we are an elite liberal arts college with fantastic graduate programs. That is what we are.

But what I really would like to see in the NESCAC schools is more collaboration. What are the ways in which we could collaborate more, not just on the athletic field? For example, Colby has a first-rate museum of art, and wouldn't it be interesting for them to collaborate with our museum, which is growing and changing and doing interesting things — and has a new pink sign, right?

BRADY: It seems that in the wake of Charles Murray, a lot of people now have a certain association with this school. So as an ambassador of the institution, when you're traveling around, across the globe, how do you defend the institution, and what do you talk about in those interactions?

PATTON: These are questions that are good for everybody, because at a certain level we all are ambassadors for Middlebury.

But as the person for whom that's a primary job, I would say several things. First — and this is from my inaugural address — I would say that we are actually good at having arguments for the sake of heaven. Sometimes it's painful and messy and hard, and breaks us apart and breaks us open. People may not land exactly where other people want them to land. They may not land where they intended to land. There are all sorts of tough distances between intentions and effects that happen in these hard conversations. What people communicate may not have the positive effect they intend, and that is always hard.

The second thing I can say now is that we have had a record number of applicants this year, which is a wonderful fact. That includes a record number of students of color, as well as a record number of international student applicants. Who knows why that is the case. Last spring we did a study of admitted students, and one of the interesting findings was that students were still intending to enroll at Midd because it was perceived as a place where real issues are talked about in really hard ways by real people. I was impressed by that, and that's something I speak about when I'm traveling around the globe.

BRADY: In the internet age, when people are able to communicate across the globe in seconds, and publish an article or an essay and post it online, how do you think that affects this idea of speech, or the public sphere?

PATTON: I think it makes a huge difference in every minute of our days. I would say to students: you exist in a public sphere that nobody else has existed in, ever. And I can't imagine some days what that must feel like.

The way I think about Middlebury now is not so much a noun, but a verb. We are travelers. In that way, we always have to learn how to travel well. We travel across campuses, both digitally as well as actually. There are ways in which we have a real interesting opportunity to make sure that that this instantaneous quality of online life, as well as that hyper-connected quality of online life, can be in service of liberal education. I think we need to continue to reflect on that.

POLLARD: David Provost noted how Monterey was going to need to make seven percent budget cuts moving forward. How does Monterey fit into Middlebury's vision?

PATTON: I'll begin by saying I think Monterey is of real value, both to Middlebury and to the world. We need only turn to the example of how much it has helped in the last three or four months on the issue of North Korea.

The main thing I want to say about Monterey is that every part of Middlebury should wish for its success. Part of what it means to be a great liberal arts college with fantastic graduate programs is that every unit should wish for the success of every other unit. That's our only way forward. If a unit does well, either intellectually or financially, that helps everybody: all boats rise with that tide. That's the perspective I want to make sure people embrace.

BRADY: The master plan was a document produced in 2008, which is similar to Envisioning Middlebury. Does the college plan in the future to follow that document? In what ways can we balance the vision that we have with financial realities?

PATTON: We have a Buildings, Grounds and Lands Subcommittee of the Board of Trustees that is vigilant about this. A perfect example of the need to update a master plan would be the temporary building that we will begin work on in the next several months. That was an important moment for Middlebury, because it's exactly related to your question, which is how you figure out a way to respond to needs that you didn't anticipate.

We can't afford to tear down all the buildings and create new spaces, but I think there are ways that we can continually think about space utilization in different eras, and 2018 looks different than even 1998 did.

Consider the wonderful murals that have been done in the Anderson Freeman Center. Why not do several murals around campus like that? Why not think about the next ten years as a place where art can occupy a new role on campus, and create a different kind of space utilization that could be more welcoming, and make our campus more welcoming?

POLLARD: You mentioned before that there are needs we don't anticipate as a college campus. In relation to the Me Too movement and "The List," how will the college address this issue moving forward?

PATTON: I think that the number-one priority for the Title IX office, and for Middlebury more broadly, is to make sure that we are a place where students feel that they can report crimes of bias, crimes of sexual assault, and all of the other areas that fall under Title IX. That has to be our number-one priority.

Another top priority has to be for fairness for all students. Those two things are what we're committed to and what our Middlebury values demand. So moving forward, what I expect, and know we can and should do, is to make sure that we live up to those values even in changing situations. The Me Too movement opened up all sorts of difficult issues for everyone around questions of sexual assault, around questions of reporting, and so forth.

POLLARD: Do you see any kind of educational element moving forward? Any kind of blanket, almost required-for-all-students portion? I know that the Vermont executive branch has required an in-course training for all government officials on sexual assault training.

PATTON: We do have training as part of orientation. I think it's great that all first-year students have that training and we put that in place in the last couple of years. And I think we should continue it. That's absolutely essential.

Let's also continue to make sure that that training is relevant to the kinds of constantly changing situations that we're seeing. And I think that conversation should be had on a regular basis. And if we need to expand or change what we're doing given the situations that we find ourselves in, then I expect and have confidence that we'll be able to do that. The educational element is key. The Title IX office is eager to embrace that, and deepen that as an opportunity, and I support it 100 percent.

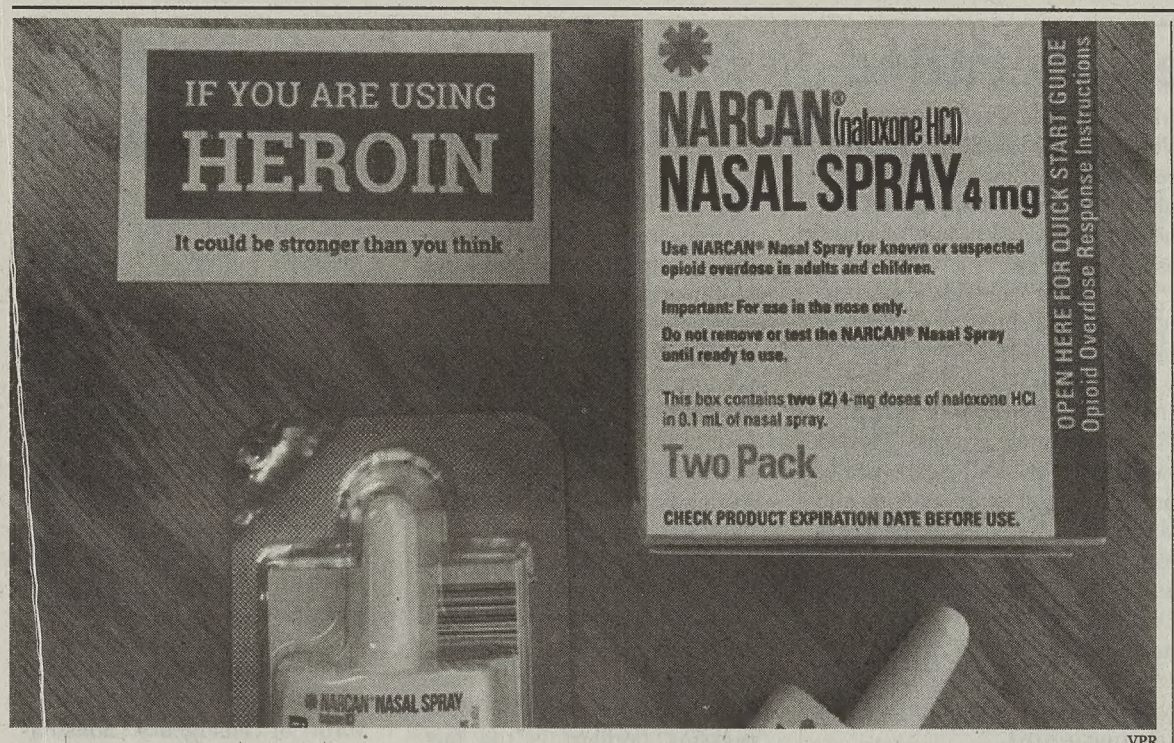
BRADY: The Title IX office is sort of like a justice system. Thinking of the campus as almost a small society, what is justice on this campus? And what does that mean for the students who go here?

PATTON: In my training in conflict mediation, we talk about three different kinds of justice. It's important to remember that there are three different kinds of justice that are part and parcel of our world. There are many more, but certainly three major ones.

The first is the idea of justice as a system of equality, where ideas about fairness take center stage. The second is the question of justice as equity: how much I put in is what I would get out of any given social engagement. The third kind of justice is a moral one. This has to do with righting historical wrongs and acknowledging where society does not fully recognize of some of its citizens, or does not fully represent them, or does not take care of some of its most vulnerable people.

All of those three ideas of justice should be at play in the mini-society that is Middlebury. And the number-one thing we have to do as a society of learners and teachers is to reflect on those three ideas of justice and what their relationship is with one another. Can we design a system that makes sure that those three ideas of justice are part and parcel of how we live together?

Amelia Pollard and Elizabeth Zhou transcribed this interview. A full transcript is continued at www.middleburycampus.com.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VPR

Female state officials advocate for fuller legislation to thwart the gender-based pay gap.

Opioid Epidemic Sees Signs of Hope

By MARIA KAOURIS
Contributing Writer

MIDDLEBURY — With the opioid crisis continuing to erupt across the country, Vermont government officials seem to be breathing a collective sigh of relief for the first time in years. Identified in 2016 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as a state with a significant increase in opioid overdoses, Vermont has recently responded by pouring resources into addiction recovery programs. Through the Care Alliance for Opioid Addiction, Vermonters in need of treatment can seek out medication-assisted therapy (MAT) in the comfort of a local treatment facility.

A state report published on Jan. 22 shows that opioid use in Vermont has decreased by 96 percent coupled with nearly a 100 percent decrease in overdoses. These recent improvements can predominantly be attributed to the time and money the state department has invested in opioid-addiction programs that span the state. Implemented only four years ago, the Hub and Spoke system of the Care Alliance for Opioid Addiction creates an accessible environment with individualized treatment techniques.

Through the program, patients are anchored to a local treatment facility (or hub) for the legal and guided dispensation of methadone and buprenorphine, narcotics used to treat opioid addiction. Stemming from this more generalized system of treatment are the spokes of the program—patients are assigned a specialized team of a nurse, physician, and coordinator in an attempt to pinpoint the nuances of their addiction. From this, addicts can be appropriately dealt with on an individual level as there is one three-person team for every 100 patients. Furthermore, with seven hub clinics, Vermont officials stress that opioid-addiction care is accessible in every region of the state and is simultaneously incorporated into the healthcare system.

Despite recent improvements, citizens are haunted by images of opioid abusers passed out on bus benches, loved ones waving goodbye in the morning and never returning, and local news stations devoting more and more time to heroin overdose stories. Residents of the state were sent into a quiet turmoil in 2014 when the former Governor Peter Shumlin committed his entire State of the State address to discussing Vermont's "full-blown heroin crisis." His call for treatment reformation sought to aid, not punish, drug abusers. His focus and empathy regarding the opioid emergency arguably has shifted the way in which public and legal discourse is now handled—rather than viewing heroin use as a reason to incarcerate people, he called for the recognition of addiction as a "chronic disease."

The New York Times reported that under Gov. Shumlin's guidance, opioid treatment in Vermont increased by over 770 percent between 2000 and 2014. Although this can be seen as a victory because many addicts are seeking out the necessary treatment, it did not preclude the 80 opioid-related fatalities in 2015 or the 112 in 2016, according to the Vermont Department of Health. While it is rather challenging to pinpoint the cause of the epidemic, the National Institute on Drug Abuse has turned to healthcare providers. In the late 1990s, pharmaceutical companies confirmed that there was not a sizable risk for addiction to opioid medications, leading to a spike in prescriptions by physicians. Before it was apparent that opioid addiction was a national problem, it was too late. By 2015, Today, patients abuse these prescribed drugs at one-fifth to one-third of the rate of the previous two million reported in 2015 by the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

Dr. Mark Levine, Vermont's Health Commissioner, acknowledges these troubling statistics but sees the state's tremendous improvements as an indication of a hopeful future. In an interview on Vermont Public Radio, he expresses the gradual process of systemic changes that have allowed for the partial alleviation of this crisis. "We've made great progress and we need to acknowledge that, although we can't let up and we have to embark on numerous additional initiatives," Levine said.

This constant understanding of progress as a first step instead of a resolution may be what keeps the state government's continuous efforts in action. "We have capacity now with no waiting lists for anyone who is seeking treatment to have access to treatment, we have a very strong history of partnership with Medicaid," Levine said. "In prevention we have new prescriber rules that we're beginning to see some traction from, [and] ... a Vermont prescription monitoring system which has been effective."

These programs address healthcare roadblocks and the overzealous prescribing of opioids for pain relief. Although two Vermonters die each week week from opioids, the government has recognized the epidemic and is seeking innovative ways to address it. Some citizens have voiced their concern that more resources should be devoted to opioid education rather than focusing funds on addiction clinics.

Jolinda LaClair, director of Vermont's drug prevention policy, sees the integration of school and community educational programs as a crucial next step in addressing the crisis. Others argue that homeopathic solutions should be explored and endorsed as a viable option instead of the current MAT offered by the state. Despite varied perspectives on how to deal with the crisis, it is clear that Vermonters share a common goal—improvement, and eventually total alleviation, of opioid abuse.

Vermont Struggles with Increase in Homelessness

By RUHAMAH WEIL
Contributing Writer

MIDDLEBURY — On Jan. 12, Suad Teocanin, a 45-year-old kitchen worker at Two Brothers Tavern died from exposure on the Middlebury town green – a place where just months earlier, Bernie Sanders had stood and spoken of economic inequality. Despite having a steady source of income, Teocanin was homeless. He was, in the words of one community member, "one of the highly visible invisibles," as much of Addison County's homeless population is – meaning that many are active contributing members to town life, but lack of a roof under which to sleep.

Samantha Kachmar, associate director of housing programs at Middlebury's shelter, the Charter House, echoed this in describing the shelter's guests. "We have had many, many people here throughout our years who are employed, who have a bachelor's degree, who may have a master's degree, and they're homeless," she said. Kachmar stressed that housing insecurity and instability is nondiscriminatory. "It can happen to anyone."

Indeed, Dwayne Vukoder, a Middlebury homeowner through Addison County's Habitat for Humanity chapter, spoke of the common need for housing assistance. "I believe a lot of people out there meet the criteria [for aid from Habitat for Humanity] and they don't even know it," he said.

Before buying their house in Middlebury, Vukoder's family rented a duplex in Bristol that was infested with black mold, had single paned windows and a monthly heating bill between 800 and 1000 dollars. They ended the year in debt, and then had to "do it all over again." He explained that his partner, the family's main breadwinner, earns a modest income. "Decent," he said, "but she's not making a lot." As a result, they weren't eligible for heating and fuel assistance. However, that didn't mean they weren't in need of help. Vukoder described having to duct tape thick plastic sheets over windows to keep wind from blowing in, collecting blankets for his children to sleep under and using electric heaters at night that had a high fire risk. Physical shelter and housing during Vermont winters mean little without proper heating.

Despite this epidemic, the Trump Administration's proposed federal budget for 2018 included cutting funding for utility payment assistance (such as heating). In Vermont, 854 families would lose reimbursements for their utilities as a result of just one of the effected programs according to Affordable Housing Online. The organization estimates that the budget would cut nearly 19 million dollars directly from Vermont housing aid through the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Several hundred local families would be put at risk of losing their Section 8 Vouchers, the rental assistance for low-income families, elderly and disabled.

The Middlebury Commons is an affordable housing complex organized by the Vermont State Housing Authority. Many of its residents rely on rental rebate for shelter there, including Jill Smith, a 66-year-old double amputee with familial experience of homelessness, who admitted, "If I didn't have that Section 8, I don't know where I'd be, I really don't."

"President Trump's budget makes the growing divide between rich and poor even wider," said Kate Hamilton, press secretary for Vermont congressman, Peter Welch. She believes that cuts to the EPA, the Departments of Justice, Labor, Health and Human Services, and the Corporation of National and Community Service would all exacerbate housing insecurity, "It's a multifaceted problem that is addressed by a wide variety of government resources, and many of those programs would be negatively impacted by President Trump's proposed cuts."

If so, the effects of the Administration's plans would be acute in the region surrounding Middlebury, for they would come at a time when the pop-

(Continued on Page A4)

ADDISON INDEPENDENT

The Blue Spruce Motel engulfed in flames last July.

EMMA STAPLETON

Community members gather to share their creative works at the Maker's Faire.

Career Center Hosts Maker's Faire

By SADIE HOUSBERG
Local Editor

MIDDLEBURY – The Patricia A. Hannaford Career Center welcomed The Maker's Faire for the first time to their annual Open House last Thursday, Feb. 15. Students and community members gathered at the Center at 51 Charles Ave. in Middlebury to learn about future career pathways from the visual arts, engineering and sustainable agriculture, to culinary arts and 'making.' The event, coordinated and organized by a committee of career center faculty and administrators, including Interim Superintendent Dana Peterson, educators, makers and community members, was part of an effort to encourage community engagement and access to the facility and its resources.

The "maker movement" is a homegrown, DIY movement, encompassing a broad range of artistic, technical, and creative interests. "Being a maker is either for love of art, love of creation, or just wanting to change your own fortunes through making things and creating things to make your or someone else's life better or more beautiful," said Devon Karpak, a Career and Tech Ed instructor and a member of the organizational force behind the event last Thursday.

"There's so much cool stuff going on in people's garages and their small businesses and their hobbies," said Karpak. Though the Open House at the career center has been going on for years, he explained, making and technical education are not often emphasized as career pathways. "Bringing them out into the light at a Maker's Faire is kind of what the impetus for this [event] was," he said.

"A lot of this is self-taught," said Jim Randall, an animatronics artist hailing from Massachusetts and one of the makers at the fair. "This is the first time I've done a maker faire but I've been to other conventions in the past, which are really helpful for this line of work." For Randall and many of the other makers at the fair, this was an opportunity to showcase their labors, network, and participate in an exchange of ideas and creativity.

During his budget address on Jan. 23, Governor Phil Scott emphasized the need to retain Vermont's workforce. "A shrinking workforce creates a downward spiral," he said according to Seven Days VT. "With fewer workers we have less revenue and the state becomes less and less affordables." With baby boomers reaching retirement age, one of the lowest birth rates in the country, and a low unemployment rate indicating low supply of labor, many fear that Vermont is set up for this 'downward spiral.'

However, the Census Bureau reported in 2017 that Vermont saw its first population increase since 2013. "As an education and training organization we need to be giving the workforce what it needs," said Kate LaRiviere, Instructional Coach at the career center, "so, I see us as very much a part of the workforce development." LaRiviere contends that a large goal of the center is to maintain and develop this workforce locally by helping students make connections in Vermont.

"I've got to figure that even if they go out of state for college they could come back and feel like they had a connection in the industry," she said. The addition of the Maker's Faire at the Open House is more inclusive to adult education; it acknowledges that a portion of the workforce is self-employed and self-taught. LaRiviere explains that the center hopes to make its resources and facilities available to a wider audience. "The Maker Movement is about democratizing creativity and giving anybody who wants to make something a spot to do it," she said.

"There was a point where woodshop and metal shop and all that stuff, that was just part of growing up in high school," said Karpak. "It didn't matter if you were going to college or if you were going right into the workforce or somewhere in between." Over the years that vein of programming was cut, and Middlebury was not exempt from those cuts, Karpak explained. Woodshop, metalworking and making education in general transitioned elsewhere. "But people still have the desire and the need to create and be inventive," he said.

Another goal of the Maker Faire was to assess community support for the creation of a more permanent 'maker's space' in the career center or another location in downtown Middlebury. The space would be accessible to residents and students of all ages in Addison County. "Maker's Spaces are really cool," said Jake Burnham, an Engineering and Architecture Instructor from Cornwall, Vt. and another member of the group working towards the creation of the maker's space. "They are what our primary education should be based on. Maker's Spaces are just little creative engines that provide the freedom to explore with materials and tools." Burnham emphasized the importance of experiential learning in the success of education and maker's spaces to facilitate that.

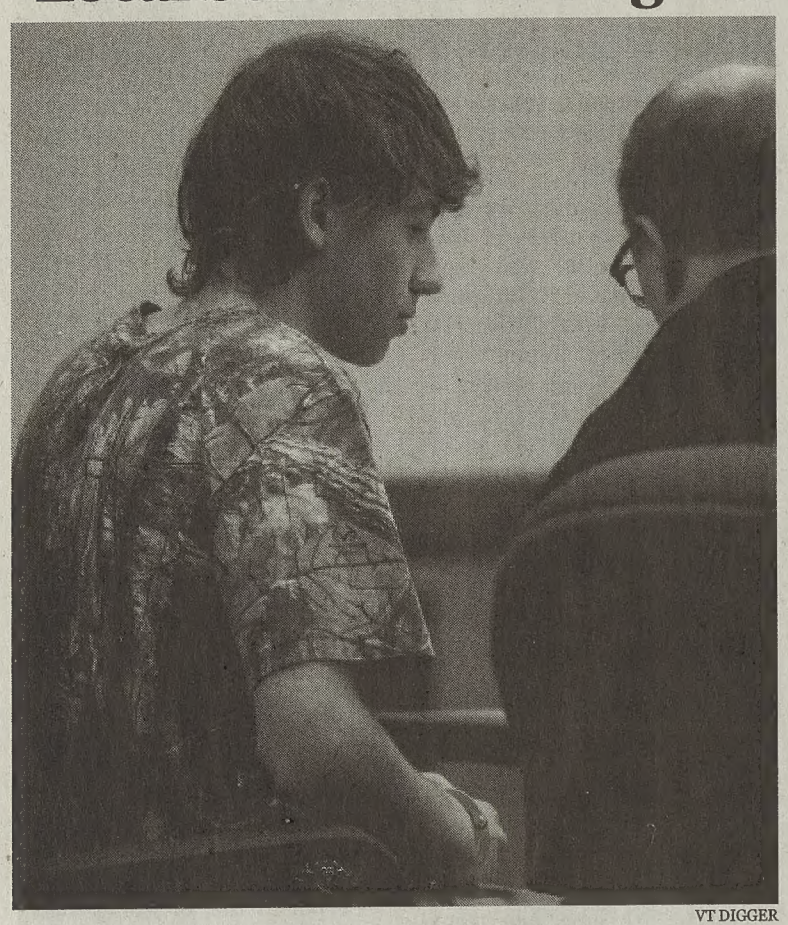
"The idea is that if we found a way to open the career center to the community so that they could understand what resources are in this building, said LaRiviere, "there would be a greater appreciation and potentially greater access for people to this building."

Peterson reported in the Addison County Independent that the initiative has received a lot of support and is far ahead of schedule. Karpak is hopeful about the possibility of the establishment of a maker's space. He believes that it would not only improve access to the resources that inventors and creators need to work but would also facilitate an exchange of ideas and innovative growth. "I think the community's response has been and will continue to be largely positive," he said.

Karpak hopes to see a maker's space either at the career center or somewhere else in town within the next ten months and possibly a space open temporarily once a week within the next couple of months. "Vermont has an immense entrepreneurial spirit that lives in barns and garages. My hope and the reason that I got involved in this is because I think Middlebury has the capacity to retain what makes it unique and amazing."

Learn more about the Hannaford Career Center and available programming and resources at http://www.hannafordcareercenter.org/.

Local School Shooting Threat Derailed



VT DIGGER

Sawyer at court with his lawyer last Friday.

By AMELIA POLLARD
Local Editor

MIDDLEBURY – Until last week, Vermont had evaded the fear of school shootings that have swept the nation.

The state was put to the test last Thursday after two separate tips reached Rutland County authorities regarding a teenager, 18, who was thought to pose a dire threat to the community. A young woman from Poughkeepsie, NY, contacted police after receiving messages from the teen, who is her, claiming he wanted to commit a shooting at a high school 30 miles south of Middlebury. Two days later, a parent also contacted authorities regarding suspicious behavior.

The eighteen-year-old was Jack Sawyer. In the span of only a few days, Sawyer was searched, arrested, arraigned on multiple charges of attempted aggravated murder and held without bail. Sawyer's comprehensive plan to kill students at Fair Haven Union High School in Fair Haven, Vt., was thwarted in a matter of days through the swift action by local officials.

Sawyer's life had been unstable in the past few years. After being kicked out of the local public school, he was being treated at a resident facility in Maine for the past year for anxiety and depression. According to Sawyer's father, David Sawyer, he had checked himself out of the facility and returned to Vermont to seek a job on Feb. 9.

The disturbing affidavit written by Det. Sgt. Todd Wilkins last week detailed the events leading up to Sawyer's arrest. On Feb. 13, Sawyer purchased a shotgun from Dick's Sporting Goods. Two days later, Chief William Humphries was contacted by the Duchess County Sherriff's Department regarding text messages Sawyer had exchanged with a young woman from Poughkeepsie, NY.

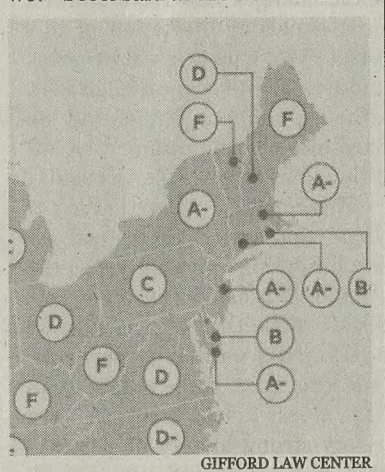
In the exchange, the woman questioned why Sawyer had returned to Vermont. "Back in VT I'm trying to start fresh," Sawyer replied. "Just a few days ago I was still plotting on shooting up my old high school so it's not like I really wanted a future anyways."

The woman also was the one to notify Sawyer of the Florida high school shooting. Sawyer had been recently fixated on the 1999 Columbine shooting, and was reported by Det. Sgt. Wilkins to have been reading about it recently. "That's fantastic. 100% support it," Sawyer wrote in response to the massacre in Florida.

After reviewing the messages, Det. Sgt. Henry Alberico and Wilkins located Sawyer in Poultney, Vt. The two interviewed the teenager thoroughly, and it became evident how substantial his plan to kill students at Fair Haven High School was. Through the interview, the two learned of Sawyer's aspirations to purchase an AR-15 and 9 mm Glock (both of which he could legally purchase in Vermont), the journal he had started months earlier entitled "Journal of an Active Shooter," and that he simply wanted to kill "as many as [he could] get."

This scare came only days after the school shooting on Feb. 14, in which 17 people were killed by a gunman at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla. Immediately after the Florida rampage, Gov. Phil Scott, a Republican, stood by the existing gun laws, which are some of the weakest in the nation. The was given an "F" grade by the Gifford Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, named for the former Arizona representative Gabrielle Giffords, who was seriously injured in a mass shooting in 2011.

For Scott, it took the threat of a school shooting in Fair Haven to reconsider the question of gun legislation, although he declined to offer any specific changes that he was open to. He expressed his shift in stance at a press conference last Friday. "If we are at a point when we put our kids on a bus and send them to school without being able to guarantee their safety, who are we?" Scott said at the news conference. "I need to be open-minded, objective and at least consider anything that will protect our kids."



GIFFORD LAW CENTER

Gun law ratings by state.

Since the fall, Senator Dick Sears, a Democrat from Bennington, has worked on a senate bill that would create a process to remove guns from citizens who appear to be a threat to themselves or others: those like Sawyer. For the next two weeks, the Senate Judiciary Committee will work on bringing the bill to a vote.

Gun Owners of Vermont, a group that endorsed Gov. Scott in the 2016 election, remains adamant that there be no strengthening of gun laws in the state. Ed Cutler, vice president of the group, told the Burlington Free Press that he suspected Scott was yielding to political pressure. "I hope he comes to realize that we're his core base," he told the paper.

Inadequate Support for Homeless Population

(Continued from Page A3)

ulation is especially vulnerable to homelessness, and safety-net organizations are under particular stress.

Of Vermont's 623,657 people, 1,225 were homeless on the night of the point-in-time count taken in 2017. This is an 11 percent increase from 2016. Nationally, however, there was only an approximate increase of 1 percent. While Chittenden County, the region with the highest homeless rate in Vermont, saw a decrease, its neighbor, Addison County experienced the opposite. And more pressing perhaps is the fact that between 2016 and 2017, there was also an increase in unsheltered homelessness in Addison County – that is, people who have no access to shelter apart from cars.

Kachmar also discussed what is to be done moving forward, emphasizing the variety of social barriers that cause and overlap with homelessness, such as disabilities, substance abuse and domestic violence. According to those who saw him last, Teocanin was intoxicated the night he died, which ultimately impeded his ability to walk back to a bed at the Charter House. All these issues must be addressed in order to eradicate housing insecurity. However, the final defense for those without permanent shelter in Vermont, where the temperature regularly lingers below freezing as it did the night of Teocanin's accident, is simply four walls.

When Vermont declares "adverse weather conditions", such as projections of low temperature or high precipitation at night, the Department for Children and Families can provide those in need with vouchers for hotels. In Middlebury, those vouchers were redeemable South of the town center, at the Blue Spruce Motel – until it was destroyed, engulfed in flames on July 12. Kachmar pointed out the shortcomings of this approach to emergency shelter, "If a family or an individual is put in a motel for the night, that could cost the state sixty to seventy-five dollars per night. And that's what they get. They get a room." Meanwhile, eleven dollars houses someone for a night at the Charter House. In spite of this lower cost, Kachmar believes the shelter can provide much more than the motel. "There's people here that can sit and talk with you. There's a hot supper served every single night and breakfast in the morning. And there's a friendly face and it's a safe space to be," she said.

The Blue Spruce Motel now stands abandoned on the side of Route 7; what was once a form of emergency housing – albeit an inadequate one according to Kachmar – is now no longer one at all. This simply puts more pressure to support the local needy population on the Charter House, when its resources are already strained. The house itself was not intended for the services it now provides. The dining hall is converted every evening into a cot-filled dormitory. Walls are not sound proof and conducive to privacy or sleeping. The shelter serves thousands of free meals every year out of a typical household kitchen, thus relying on volunteers to donate more time and money by buying and preparing food in their own homes to bring.

Nearly 970 of the town's community members are involved in the functioning of the shelter in one capacity or another. Kachmar, referring to Charter House's model, declared that though this philanthropy is exactly "what makes us work," the weight of this responsibility could take a toll on volunteers. 80 percent of the shelter's funding is non-governmental; "a lot of [which] is from our volunteers," Kachmar explains. The shelter is held together by the hands of its community, the very people it is intending to serve. Kachmar described the paid staff – two full-time employees, two part-time employees and several seasonal workers. "That's not a lot for what we're doing here," she said.

Meet Pancakes!

Will you be the maple syrup to my pancake? Hi, I'm Pancake! I came all the way to Vermont from West Virginia! I'm a very easy going, friendly, happy guy. Maybe they should have named me "Butter" because when I'm around people, I love them so much that I melt right into them. Not to brag, but I'm super sweet and I'm always eager to receive attention. I'm so very ready to be in a new home! Will it be yours? (1 year, Basset Hound mix, neutered male.)

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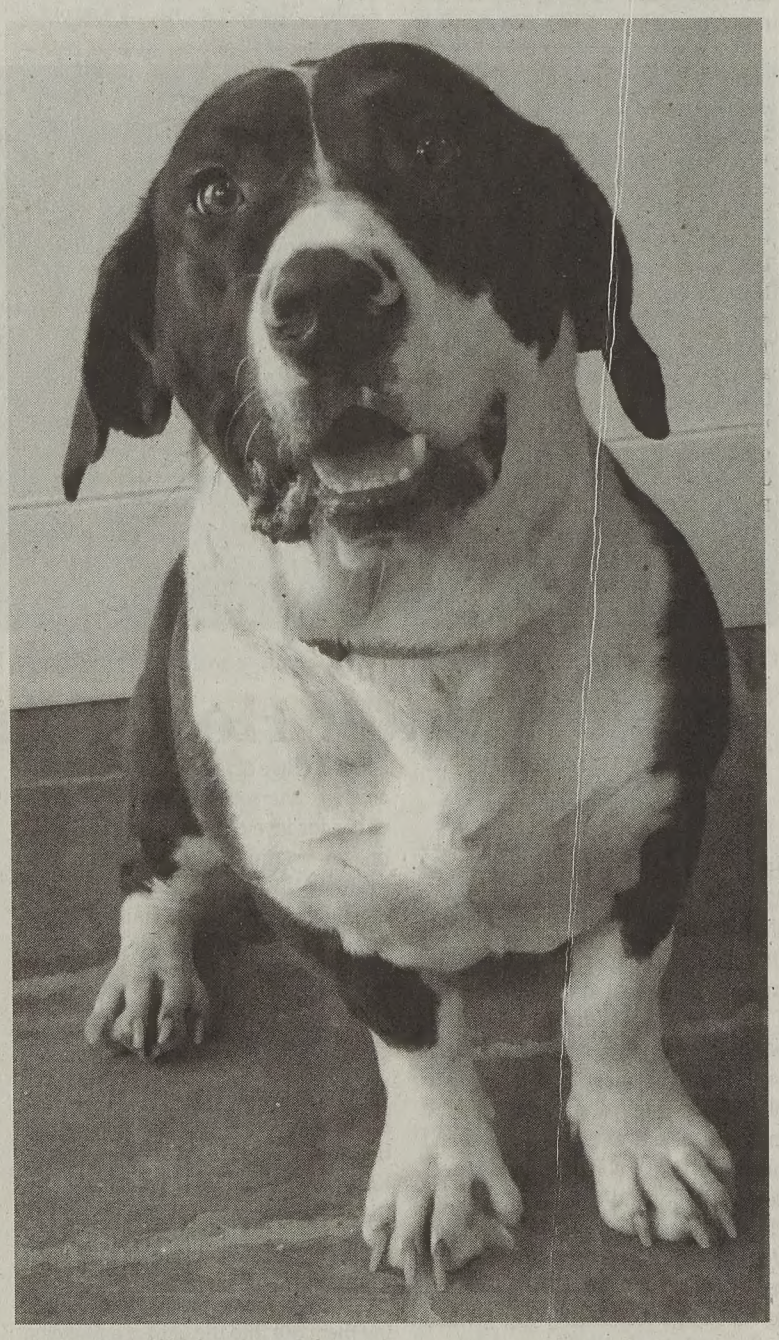

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This Is Not Normal

By THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Last Wednesday, 19-year-old Nikolas Cruz entered Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, and shot and killed 17 people. Many of us were devastated. When innocent people (to say nothing of children) lose their lives, we are compelled to hold loved ones close and consider who we are and what we value.

On learning of the events in Parkland, few of us were shocked. This latest school shooting comes in the wake of a litany of others over the past several years. Our generation has grown up all-too-familiar with horrors like these, and as the headlines continue to accumulate we do not merely grow more and more hopeless, but we are left increasingly disheartened by the lack of action on the part of elected officials.

The response to tragedies such as these has become ritualized. We read the article, we like the Facebook status. For those of us lucky enough not to be personally affected, we do our best to move on. This is a tragedy in and of itself. Violence on this scale should not and cannot be normalized.

The current generation of young people has barely known a world without mass shootings. We practiced active shooter drills and rehearsed lockdowns alongside the alphabet, before we were old enough to differentiate between which was normal and which was not. Children should not grow up in a society that forces them to think devastation like this is inevitable.

Many are not hopeful that the school shooting in Parkland will be the last, fearing instead that this cycle will continue. Many of the survivors have taken to social media themselves, calling for the government to take steps to ensure this doesn't happen again. And this is at a time when ordinarily they should be worrying only about the pressures of high school. There is a note of hope in this: Perhaps our generation will fill the void left by passive politicians who are too afraid to take any bold political action, who offer nothing more than "thoughts and prayers."

We have grown up in a world that is reactionary, not proactive, in the face of such violence. As the last few days have proven, 17- and 18-year-olds are taking this issue more seriously than adults. They see how this country feigned outrage once again without working toward a solution. They read about certain members of Congress receiving substantial donations from the NRA.

What it increasingly comes down to is whether you value the lives of schoolchildren over people's claims to military-style weapons — and this board does, without question. If these tragedies are the manifestation of the gun rights advocates' ardent protection of the people's right to bear arms, we will not stand it. The ubiquity of mass murder must end.

Legislators should start by banning the AR-15, which happens to be America's most popular rifle, according to NPR and NRAblog.org. It is a military-inspired rifle that is designed to kill efficiently and is accurate, customizable and reliable. We saw this on display in Parkland, as it was Nikolas Cruz's weapon of choice. Equally horrific was its role in the death of 27 people at Sandy Hook Elementary School in 2012.

According to Time Magazine, mass shooters also used AR-15s or comparable weapons — such as the SIG MCX — in shootings in Aurora, Colorado (death toll: 12); San Bernardino, California (death toll: 14); Orlando, Florida (death toll: 49) and Las Vegas, Nevada (death toll: 58). Why do we value a person's right to access these types of weapons over so many lives?

AR-15s and similar high-performance weapons were not part of the Founding Fathers' reality when they wrote the 2nd Amendment. It is time for us to stop defending all types of arms. There are hunting rifles, and then there are AR-15s — between them are profound differences, and these differences need to be recognized in the development of gun legislation that more accurately reflects the capacities of modern weaponry. The 2nd Amendment was not created for these styles of weapons and we should not treat it as such.

Many on the left have been criticized for inserting politics into the national conversation surrounding tragedies like these. Why wouldn't we insert politics into an issue that so desperately needs better policy? These challenges require immediate preventative action. This can only occur through aggressive and proactive policy change.

We are all well-aware of the long list of opportunities we have had to make tragedies like these less likely in the future. From organizing sit-ins to forming coalitions to promoting new legislation, citizens have been stepping in where the people elected and paid to do so haven't.

It is time the U.S. government asserts the right of children to attend school without fear of bodily harm over the right of some to own military-style weapons. It is time that we value life over tools used increasingly to bring about death. As the social media presence of students of Stoneman Douglas High School has shown, we are the ones who have the courage to make change — something NRA-bought politicians lack.

We refuse to become numb to tragedies like these. We will tolerate them no longer.

Redefining 'Inclusivity' as 'Freedoms'

By SHAWNA SHAPIRO and MICHAEL SHERIDAN

Much of our campus conversation lately has been about "freedom of speech" and "inclusivity," as if they were opposing values between which we must choose. We have heard lofty statements like, "Freedom and inclusivity must go hand-in-hand," yet statements like these preserve the binary. Moreover, while it might look nice as a slogan on a t-shirt, this framing doesn't help us figure out what we actually mean by "freedom" and "inclusivity." Some of our students and colleagues have been critical of the assumptions behind the word "inclusive": Who is being included? Who gets to do the including? And included in what?

This past fall, Professor Shapiro worked with two research assistants (Bryan Diaz '20 and Casey Lilley '20) to examine what inclusivity means to students. One key finding is that while students have difficulty defining the term inclusivity, they have a lot to say about what exclusion looks and feels like. They talk about the ways in which our institutional culture — both inside and outside the classroom — limits their sense of belonging and agency. They describe struggling to "find comfort" with one another so that they can more productively engage uncomfortable topics. Many students feel a pervasive sense of "imposter syndrome" — particularly in classes where faculty seem not to acknowledge that "people come in with different levels of preparation for this school." One comment in particular captures the gist of many students' views: "Integral to inclusiveness [is] the removal of barriers that distance people, and the willingness to form community."

These comments make clear something we know but don't always talk about: the recipe for an inclusive environment involves more than simply "add diversity and stir." Inclusivity requires not just offering new opportunities and resources, but considering who faces barriers to accessing the opportunities and resources already available, and committing to lowering those barriers. To experience inclusivity, in other words, is to experience a sense of freedom to take advantage of all that Middlebury has to offer.

We take some inspiration here from development studies' concept of "unfreedom" as an alternative frame for talking about social inequality. Amartya Sen, the Nobel-prize winning economist who wrote Development as Freedom (1999), argues that poverty is an interlinked set of "unfreedoms" — i.e., as a lack of political and economic freedom to choose, innovate, and even take risks. Together these unfreedoms limit options for marginalized groups' full participation in society.

What if, instead of focusing on the tension between freedom and inclusivity, we defined inclusivity as the bundle of freedoms to participate fully in all that this institution has to offer? In our recruitment materials, and on campus tours, we pitch to students and families an idyllic vision of a well-rounded and even "intimate" educational experience that includes a rich array of academic, co-curricular, and extracurricular relationships and opportunities. Yet we have seen that this sort of experience is unequally distributed. For many students, the heavy academic workload, combined with the need to earn money through paid work, limits the amount of time available for social and co-curricular activities. Moreover, we know from studies of campus life that many students feel constrained by the stratified social structure of the college—particularly if they don't fit the "Middkid" mold — physically, ideologically and/or culturally.

At the beginning of the development era, Franklin D. Roosevelt articulated Four Freedoms as core values of development policy for the United States: freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want, and freedom from fear. What if we channeled FDR by asking:

What freedoms do we imagine should be available to all students at Middlebury? We offer the following as a starting list:

- Freedom to choose the course of study which most interests a student, not just what brings economic security
- Freedom to contribute to the institution's decision-making processes
- Freedom to build new networks and relationships
- Freedom to access support systems, resources, and accommodations to which one is entitled
- Freedom to achieve one's academic best
- Freedom from discrimination and stereotyping
- Freedom from threats of physical and emotional violence
- Freedom from fear of social exclusion for speaking one's mind
- Freedom to take academic and social risks
- Freedom to grow and change — and even make mistakes
- Freedom to bring our family/community histories and life experiences into the classroom and beyond.

Imagine if everyone in the Middlebury community did this homework exercise: Consider the extent to which you feel that these freedoms characterize your own experience at Middlebury. What are ways in which our own actions, and the actions of others, further or impede access to these freedoms — for ourselves and for others? Then, talk to a friend about what you've concluded. Scale up the conversation.

This is more than an academic exercise.

Talking about how each member of Middlebury experiences freedoms (or "unfreedoms") in his, her or their day-to-day experience here can, we believe, lead to more effective action. It can help us attend to inclusivity not just through "adding on" but through "opening up." In this way, we might move past simple binaries to engage one another in a deeper and more productive discussion about who we are and who we want to become.

Shawna Shapiro is a professor of linguistics. Michael Sheridan is a professor of sociology and anthropology.

I Cover The Waterfront

On TJ, JA and Guns

By WILL DIGRAVIO
Managing Editor

Isn't it funny how often we tend to view historical figures in ways they most certainly would not have approved?

I think about that a lot these days, since political leaders seem to grow more and more certain that they know the answers the Founding Fathers would provide to Wolf Blitzer and Rachel Maddow in the wake of each mass killing.

Like, I assume, even the most casual lover of American history, I too have a fascination with the Founding Fathers, more specifically, the men who gathered in Philadelphia for the Second Continental Congress, and, in particular, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson. Over this past winter break, I read Christopher Hitchens' brief biography of Jefferson (it's more like fan nonfiction), and I am currently making my way through "Friends Divided," Gordon Wood's 2017 examination of the Jefferson-Adams relationship.

Though I can offer no insight into the lives of these two men, much less what they would say about "gun control" and amendement number two, I can, with some degree of confidence, say that they would find these perpetual debates over what they and their contemporaries thought/would think if they were alive to be quite, to keep this column G-rated, silly.

Have we forgotten what our third grade teachers taught us about the American Revolution, about the struggle between ancient regimes and Enlightenment values? The Founding Fathers disagreed on much, but they were, above all, free thinkers, committed to the idea that governments, should they fail to serve the interests of the people, must be changed.

In a 1789 letter to James Madison, Jefferson writes "that the Earth belongs in usufruct [I had to look it up too] to the living: that the dead have neither powers nor rights over it." I first encountered Jefferson's observation on screen, during a conversation between him, Adams and Benjamin Franklin in the HBO miniseries "John Adams." It's something I think about a lot, and an idea that has informed how I think about government.

Now, I'm sure there are Jefferson/history experts who could find reason to say the aforementioned quote is not indicative of Jefferson's beliefs. As Hitchens and Wood both point out, Jefferson contradicted himself and changed his mind constantly. In fact, by quoting Jefferson, I have just contradicted myself, and what I said at the beginning of this column about the endless quoting of the Founding Fathers in debates over contemporary issues.

The Founding Fathers were, of course, students of history, of laws, governments and everything else. And, yes, they constantly turned to the past for guidance in an attempt to understand the present and construct the future. Yet, they, clearly, did not see themselves as beholden to the ways, laws, or ideas of old. Though they admired and learned from the men of the past, they did did not, as is the case today, deify them. That is obvious, and something we, in 2018, should remember.

WGMFU

Imma Let You Finish

By NIA ROBINSON
Opinion Editor

Men — white men specifically — seem to have this obsession with interrupting me. Over the course of one conversation, it regularly happens five times or more. Throw more white men in the mix and the amount of times they cut me off is multiplied. Rarely do they apologize or realize their rudeness. Even when I call it out, they continue to interrupt me, as though what they have to say is more important.

My favorite instances are when I am speaking and they touch my shoulder, signaling me to stop for them to speak.

On one hand, don't touch me. On another, I have shown enough times that I know what I'm doing. It's unnecessary and, unless the building is burning down, I can think of few instances where signaling me to stop adds anything to the conversation.

Sometimes, they say what I was going to say, then ask me to continue once they're done. Other times, they interrupt me to call out my lack of nuance or failure to touch on more ideas. Maybe if I had not been interrupted, their criticisms would be unnecessary.

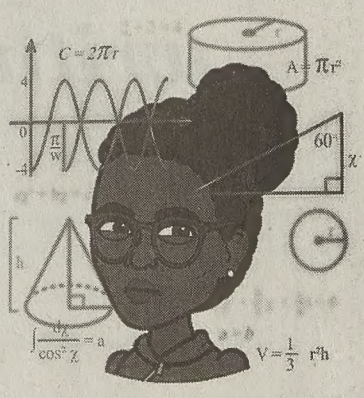
When white men do apologize, it's mediocre at best. They say, "Sorry, Nia. Continue," as they pat my back like we're friends. If they were really sorry, they would have let me finish.

I acknowledge I talk too much sometimes. Maybe the reason white men interrupt me is they don't know how to listen. If I had every platform available, I would be a bad listener too.

If you're reading this and realize you've done this to me or any other black woman, I am talking to you. If you're reading this and do not think you've done this, you probably have. For those who feel like they haven't, think about your friends and teammates.

Before someone makes it seem like I'm making this an issue only black women face, it is important to acknowledge that this has happened with white woman too. Actually, I can't think of any group that it hasn't happened with. This also makes me recognize that there is a difference between condescension or dismissal and a miscalculation of when someone believes the other person is finished speaking.

Perhaps we need to learn how to have a conversation before we learn how to have intense dialogue. Listening is great, but we also need to learn to value what we're hearing. My writing this is not a suggestion that I am perfect. It's me asserting that I deserve the same amount of respect I see other people receiving.



Let's Talk About Sex, Baby

By IVEY NOOJIN

CW: Sexual Assault

We have all heard the statistic: 1 in 5 women and 1 in 20 men are sexually assaulted on college campuses.* However, there are still issues with this supposed fact. First, we do not even know how many people who do not identify within the gender binary are affected. Second, we do not know how many people refrain from coming forward. Third, there is an overwhelming amount of evidence that shows that the aforementioned statistics are nothing compared to the truth.

What is the truth then?

The truth is that every single person on this campus is somehow connected to sexual assault, even if you may not know it yet. It could be your best friend, someone on your hall, the person you sit next to in class, or one of those people that you happen to run into all the time in the dining hall. Each and every person who is reading this is now also connected to sexual assault. Why?

Because I am that statistic. I am the 1 in 5 women between ages 18-24 who have been sexually assaulted on a college campus.

It all started after spring break of the last academic year. I was a virgin, but I wanted to have sex. All I ever heard people talk about were their hookups from their weekend and their accumulated "body count." It made me feel left out.

I was always uncomfortable when the topic came up because the people who were the same as me, those who had not experienced sex before, were not vocal about it. However, I can assure anyone who is reading this and is in a similar situation that you are not alone. So many people on this campus do not participate in the hookup culture.

The ones who do, however, are generally loud about it. That is why sometimes it can be very isolating, but that does not mean you are the only one. I was you before spring break of last year, and sometimes I wish I were still you.

It all started with a guy I thought I could trust because we had mutual friends. I now know that I was wrong. I never had Sex Ed; I had never heard of healthy sexual relationships; I did not know about consent.

He took advantage of that. He never once asked me for an enthusiastic "yes" before touching me. He would not wait until I was ready on multiple occasions, and I would bleed. He would not acknowledge my existence in the dining hall. All of these things, and many more, were problematic, but I did not realize it at the time.

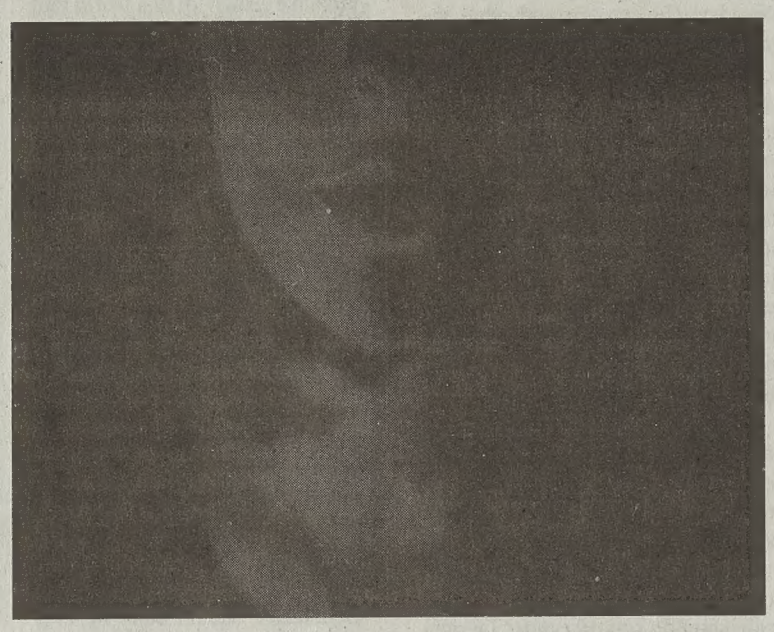
It happened three times. Sexual assault, that is. Two times he woke me up for sex because he wanted it. One time I said stop, and he did not.

Yet it still took me months to figure out what had happened to me. I started coming to terms with everything once "The List" came out. I decided to put his name, the guy who hurt me for months and continues to cause me emotional pain from the trauma, on that list of around thirty men's names to avoid because of their problematic sexual behavior.

All I wanted to do was protect other girls. I did not want him to hurt anyone else like he had done to me.

After I came forward with my story a couple of days before Feb Break, I had packed up all of my things and had withdrawn from Middlebury for the upcoming spring semester. The administration could do nothing to protect me, and I had never felt more unsafe in my life. I knew of his violent tendencies, and every second of the day I was worried he was going to come after me. He knew where I lived; he was mad about "The List"; he was threatening any girl who could have been involved.

I had to sit across from him every day in class throughout J-Term, wondering if he was going to figure everything out. Wondering if he was going to attack me



when he wore that same jean jacket and those same clear glasses like that night of October 6th. I could not take it anymore. He was everywhere, and there was nothing the administration could do to guarantee my safety.

I decided to come back to Middlebury for various reasons, but the biggest one was that I thought I would be safe. I got a No Contact Order against him, and I thought that I would hardly have to see him.

I was wrong.

The first day of class, just after I had spent an hour and a half in the judicial office detailing what he had done to me, there he was, walking into the classroom wearing that same jean jacket and those same clear glasses. I do not remember a thing the professor said that day. I was numb.

When class was let out, I immediately went to the professor. I asked him to please not let the boy in the jean jacket off of the waitlist. He said there was nothing he could do. I called the judicial office. They said he had the same right to be in that class as me, even though I was registered and he was not.

They said that people with No Contact Orders are in the same class all the time. They said they would make sure we did not work on any group projects together. Once again, Middlebury was not keeping me safe. I had come back to campus because I thought the administration would support me. I was wrong.

I am the one who has to accommodate him. I am the one who has to provide all the evidence that he did something to me. I am the one who always has to look over their shoulder to see if the other is going to attack. I am stuck here at Middlebury and at this phase of my life without any escape.

Today I am writing this to give everyone a glimpse of what is wrong with this campus, and the world, surrounding the issue of sexual assault. I am also writing this to all of the survivors out there who feel alone. You are not. I am one of you now, and I am here to support you in any way throughout your journey of healing. I, too, am traveling along the dark and winding road of trauma.

There are too many people on this campus who have been violated. I say no more. The administration is not doing enough. Because of their inability to do the right thing, we are now the ones who have to make a change. I say we come together and tell everyone that we have never consented to being treated this way, neither by our attackers nor by the administration.

The administration is taking advantage of our inexperience, just as that person who knew you were a virgin. The administration is making us go through the judicial process without our permission, just as someone waking us up in the middle of the night to violate us without our consent. The administration is telling us that we are safe, just as us sending that "don't come over" text and yet being in our room a couple of minutes later pretending to have never read it.

I am done feeling violated, and you should too. We have already gone through enough trauma. The administration needs to change its actions, just like all of the sexual predators who continue to prowl on this campus.

Let's get justice.

Are you with me?

*Due to the variance in statistical data from year to year, the hyperlink we provided is data regarding campus sexual violence from a trusted source - RAINN.org

Study Abroad: The Hardest Four Months of My Life

By LAURA DILLON

"How was abroad? It looked amazing from your Instagram!" was the most frequent greeting I received on returning to campus in January after spending my fall semester abroad in Santiago, Chile. I knew that the "how was abroad" question was inescapable, and even though I had spent the last few weeks of December considering how I would answer this, by the time I arrived at Middlebury I still didn't quite have an answer. It turns out I didn't need to: people were answering their own questions for me, with the near-universal assumption that everyone has a great time abroad.

The dominant narrative about study abroad is that it's the best time of a young person's life: a whirlwind of weekend trips, delicious food, language acquisition, new international friends, and "finding yourself." People come back "enlightened" and more "cultured" (I could write a whole different article about the problematic nature of [white] American students moving to a new country for four months and claiming the culture as their own and truly believing they are "one of them" now). This is the most popular abroad story sold to underclassmen, one which is reinforced by the Middlebury study abroad office, social media, returning students and society at large. It's the story I consumed and wholeheartedly believed as I was getting ready to go abroad. It might be the story I'm guilty of perpetuating through my social media use.

My true abroad experience, however, was messier than the simple picture our culture paints of studying abroad. The first two months were great — every day felt like an adventure and I discovered independence as I figured out the metro system, wandered museums by myself, and spent time with friends at bars until the early hours of the morning. Around the halfway point of the semester, however, I started to confront the reality that I wasn't actually happy with my life in Chile. I started to acknowledge that I really missed my friends and life at Middlebury and that I was pretty lonely in Santiago. I realized the "adventure" I used to call the metro actually gave me pretty bad anxiety every time I got on it, and that walking through crowds of people on the street wasn't exciting but rather overwhelming for me. I suddenly became aware of the extreme discomfort I experienced every time I stepped outside of my house, uncomfortable in my own skin that was so often catcalled and stared at everywhere I went. I realized that I didn't feel like I had made a "home" in Chile at all, and that feeling like a tourist for months, detached from your "real life" without truly making a new one, is not at all exhilarating, but actually very draining.

After confronting these feelings, the last two months of my semester abroad were rather dull, and I threw myself into end-of-semester projects to distract myself from my distress. I lost my appetite and I cried a lot — to the point where my mom once seriously asked me if I wanted to come home early. If I'm being honest with myself and with you, which is the whole reason I'm writing this, I'm still trying to get back to feeling like myself again after how much abroad took out of me.

It is such a demanding experience, and I feel deceived by the study abroad story — no one told me to brace myself for anything negative. Every upperclassman I talked to when I was a sophomore had nothing but positive things to say about his or her abroad experience, and I was expecting to feel the same way. Last May, when I confided in a senior friend who had done a semester abroad that I was extremely nervous about leaving Middlebury for a semester, he reassured me the experience would be fine and that I'd regret not going. It wasn't until a few months ago, while I was still abroad, that he admitted to me over FaceTime that "I don't think anyone actually has a good time abroad." In the moment I felt like I had been lied to by everyone who had been abroad before me. Now I can recognize that what he said to me in May wasn't exactly a lie, but I think that hearing about the more complete reality of abroad before I left would have prepared me to expect certain challenges and feelings that I hadn't experienced before.

This isn't to say everyone who studies abroad has a bad time or that it's not a worthwhile experience, but it is so emotionally demanding, and I would be surprised to hear anyone say otherwise. I've found that once I start to answer the "how was abroad" question hesitantly, with an answer like, "Well, it was kind of tough," people jump in and say, "Yeah, actually it was for me too!" It's as if there's some sort of stigma around sharing negative study abroad experiences that people can't break until someone else does first, which is probably a symptom of our campus culture regarding showing weakness or failure.

I'm not trying to scare underclassmen into not going abroad, but I am asking for more honesty on a campus that normalizes studying abroad to an extreme. I'm all for cross-cultural exploration, traveling and language acquisition, but let's not lie to each other about how tough it can be to leave behind your entire life for a semester or a year and move to a new country at 20 years old. A few weeks ago, one of my friends who stayed on campus for junior year was asked why he didn't go abroad and his answer was so simple: "I'm really happy at Midd and I finally feel settled in, so I wasn't ready to give that up." Studying abroad is not a bad decision, but it is a big one that deserves a lot of consideration and preparation. It's a complex, challenging experience that shouldn't just be sold or described as just a crazy fun semester.

And like any experience in life, it's sure to have its ups and downs. I don't regret going abroad — even with all its shortcomings, I'd definitely do it again. A lot of good came from the experience, and I did have some pretty great moments. But let's not just let our social media accounts or the dominant cultural narrative tell our abroad stories. Let's tell them authentically and holistically instead of just romanticizing the experience for future students.

Don't just take it from my Instagram. Ask me "how was abroad," but be ready to hear it all — the good, the bad, and everything between.

Are your interested in having your writing appear on this page?

Email opinion@middleburycampus.com with a writing sample and statement of interest.

Grace Kelly Charms

By MONIQUE SANTOSO
Contributing Writer

On Friday Feb. 16, 25-year-old Grace Kelly enchanted the campus with the passion of an old soul mixed with the dynamism and energetic movement of youth. She dressed in patterned leggings, a crop-top and her signature highlighted hair to matches her electric personality. She was joined by her quartet of pianist David Linard, bassist Julia Pederson and drummer Connor Kent.

As the lights dimmed and a full house applauded her greetings, she picked up her saxophone and began to dance in sync to her notes and the keys of her fellow performers.

Kelly started with an upbeat jazz rendition that paired well with the exuberance with which she welcomed the audience, shared her feeling of connection with the Robinson Concert Hall, and noted how grateful she was that her parents drove from Massachusetts to watch her perform.

She sang the lyrics of her songs, "Count on Me" and the title track of her new album, "Trying to Figure It Out", with the passion and honesty of an individual who wants internal and worldly peace in a world filled with doubts, heartbreak and terror. Her magnetic delivery of the songs kept the audience swaying silently, clicking their fingers along with her and smiling at her lyrics.

Kelly said that her songs are about "people coming together and strangers becoming friends."

As she moved into another personal song with music from the comedian Charlie Chaplin, I began to empathize with her. This song was of a lighter quality and softly carried her the performance forward. The sensitivity of her voice as she talked to individuals who "needed more light today" was joined only by the chords of Linard's piano.

ANAT GERSTEIN INC.

Grace Kelly graced the Robison Hall with vibrant and exciting music.

"Her ability to connect with the audience, irrespective of their life experiences and age makes her special," a community member said.

Without a doubt, Kelly's influences are as extensive as her musical repertoire. From the zesty tunes of "Lemons Make Lemonade" to the smoothness of a ballad dedicated to her father, the audience was absorbed in her delivery, spirit and vitality. To send her audience home dancing, she played high strung notes. She came back by popular demand to close with a tune familiar to all, "You Are My Sunshine."

A resident Bostonian, Kelly grew up in a family of classical musicians and attended Berklee College of Music. After touring Europe extensively over the past year, she asked that the audience stay tuned for her 11th album on PledgeMusic that she will be broadcasting online. The music she hopes to write is about the people who inspire her and all her supporters.

In an effort to bring jazz to a younger audience, Kelly launched a new weekly video series called "Grace Kelly PopUp" on social media in February 2017, which has already racked up over one million views.

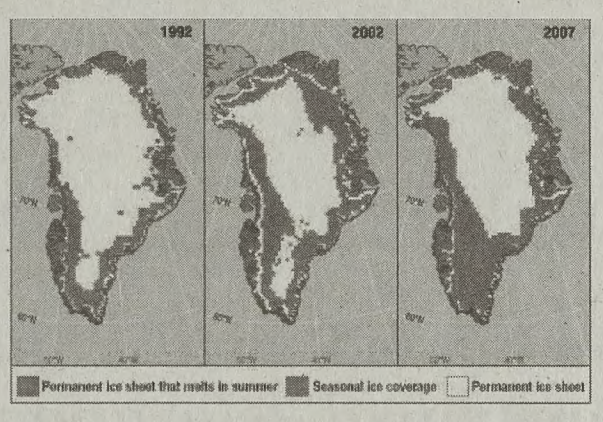
After the many standing ovations Kelly received on Friday, she held a jazz workshop for the budding jazz musicians of the college the following day.

"Follow your passion and chase your dreams relentlessly," Kelly told the Middlebury students on attendance." It was a sentiment her parents often told her and it continues to animate her artistic life.

Climate Change Guest Lecture

By SARAH HOLMES
Contributing Writer

On Friday Feb. 16, Dr. Barney Ellison came to the college to give a talk on climate change and renewable energy. Ellison received his Ph.D. in organic chemistry at Yale after studying biology at Trinity College in Connecticut. He is now a professor of organic chemistry at the University of Colorado at Boulder where he also runs an organic chemistry research laboratory. His recent interests are in climate science and the effects of aerosols.



VOICEOFNIAGARA.FILES.WORDPRESS.COM

Ellison began the lecture by introducing the practice of chemical testing done to air particles to reveal what dangerous chemicals are present in the air, such as carbon dioxide and greenhouse gases. He then discussed the quantities and extent of damage done by such harmful gases and chemicals, showing the audience infrared spectroscopy graphs, which are used to analyze chemical compounds in the air.

Additionally, Ellison discussed the environmental effects of climate change, notably found in the melting of ice in Greenland. All of his findings about these effects were supported by his calculations of the quantities of chemicals in the air.

Ellison reminded the audience that within this century, the world could run out of fossil fuels for energy use and that it is up to students to find alternative energy sources to fix this problem. He proposed that solar and nuclear power would be the best sources of energy in the coming years, noting that France gets the majority of its energy from nuclear sources. However, he emphasized that a safer source of nuclear energy is needed before it can become more widespread.

Ellison also brought up the possibility of chemically removing greenhouse gases from the atmosphere, though he questioned the ability of this method to combat such an extensive problem.

With such a large Environmental Science program at Middlebury, Ellison's call to action hopefully resonated with many of the members of the science community. Ellison ended with a call to the scientific community to emphatically dedicate its resources and focus in on climate change research.

Colby Recieves Extensive Art Gift

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Another vitally important factor is donations.

"Gifts to Middlebury's museum are important, but they tend to be anecdotal rather than the result of a proactive process at the institutional level," Broucke said.

The cultivation of donors and gifts is a vital part of the functioning of self-sustaining museums, and large institutions have an entire department dedicated to this task. As is typical of larger museums, Colby has a "director of museum development." Middlebury does not.

"The gift to Colby, the result of a proactive cultivation of and targeted outreach to alumni and donors, will only speed up the transformative nature of its museum. The quality of the gift is extraordinary in both size and quality: Van Gogh, Rembrandt .... That, in turn, will make it even more attractive for prospective donors to give," Broucke said.

The Middlebury art museum, housed in a corner of the ground floor of the Mahaney Center for the Arts, is largely hidden from public view.

"It has long outgrown the spaces," Broucke said. "We also really need more space for developing our collections and operation into new directions, say African and South-American art, in line with our changing student body and our identity as a global institution."

In regard to cultivating donorship, "The thinking is a bit like 'if you build it they will come,'" Broucke said.

However, Colby's museum is not only notably for its collection and size. The recent gift's provision for the Lunder Institute for American Art also has the potential to drastically increase the value of the institution. It will create residency programs for graduate students, artists, scholars and curators to research American art, making it the only institution of its type among the NESCACs.

However, this dramatic increase to Colby's collection and research potential can also have a positive impact on Middlebury. NESCAMA (New England Small College Art Museum Association) — started by Middlebury, Colby, Bowdoin, Smith and Skidmore — now includes around twenty college museums which loan artworks to one another. NESCAMA has also created a consortium to make joint purchases. A few years ago, Middlebury, Colby, Bowdoin, Skidmore and Mount Holyoke jointly purchased a video work which will be shown at Middlebury's museum next fall. Middlebury has also made loans to Colby.

"I am sure [Colby] will welcome loan requests from any number of college Museums in the future. So, this recent gift to Colby is good news for all of us," Saunders said.

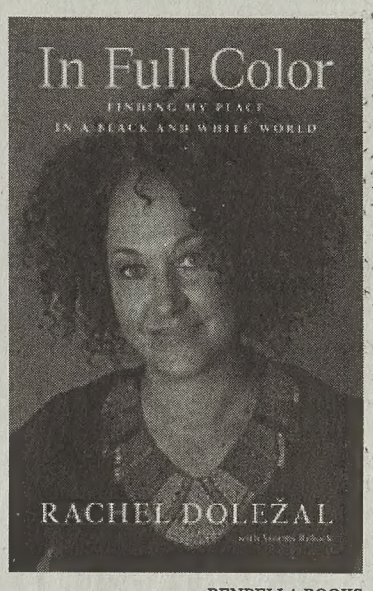
The Librarian Is In

By KATRINA SPENCER
Senior Columnist

Literatures and cultures librarian Katrina Spencer is liaison to the Anderson Freeman Center, the Arabic department, the French department, the Gender Sexuality & Feminist Studies (GSFS Program), the Language Schools, Linguistics and the Spanish & Portuguese departments. These affiliations are reflected in her reading choices.

"While I am a very slow reader, I'm a very critical reader," she says.

"In Full Color: Finding My Place in a Black and White World" by Rachel Dolezal



BENBELLA BOOKS

Pages: 270

Happy Black History Month!

THE WHAT

Back in 2015, a media firestorm erupted when "ethnically indeterminate" Rachel Dolezal, a woman who ran a local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in the Pacific Northwest, was caught in a strange conundrum: her biological parents were white but she claimed to be black. Dolezal's memoir, In Full Color: Finding My Place in a Black and White World, covers more than 35 years of her life, highlighting many of her identities and roles as someone born into poverty in Montana, a mother of black children, a mixed media artist, a historically black university graduate, a cancer survivor, an activist, an academic, a teacher, and... a [questionably] "Black" woman. Her story is told in 30 chapters and details the progression of events, affinities and experiences in her life that led her to identify as a racial minority despite her familial history falling outside of more traditionally accepted narratives of blackness. This is her attempt to clarify her stances on racial identity and to respond to her numerous critics who, over the last two years, have ridiculed her on a national scale, suggesting that her racial presentation was a farce.

THE WHY

As a black woman, an identity I hold that is hardly ever called into question given my stereotypical physical features and comparatively more typical background, I approached Dolezal's memoir with great skepticism, #allthesideeye. Many people in the "black community" decided a while ago that Dolezal was an impostor, concluding that she wasn't black and was electively living a lie. However, as I had the time to read her story and attempt to understand her positions over winter break, I took the opportunity to do so. To be clear, while I have *not* been convinced that she's a black woman, I found out that her story is not as simple as expected. Like many black women, Dolezal has black children and has shown herself to be committed to activism for the benefit of the black community. The contention, as I see it, lies in the fact that there is a difference between having lived experiences that are similar to a black woman's and calling oneself a "black woman." Her choice strikes me and her critics as cavalier and reductive. It is rare that I want to speak for the entire black community. Yet, in this scenario, I feel compelled to assert that while Dolezal's work to pursue justice for black causes is welcome, she can do it as a white woman. Race, as Dolezal suggests, is a social construct. It's weak in its very foundations and not supported by science. However, if we insist upon engaging it and the idea of blackness, as we do unquestionably in this nation and around the world, we need some meaningful and marginally delineated definitions. I doubt "blackness" means "born of European descendants and having acquired a degree from an historically black college." Stretching race and blackness beyond recognition has the potential to invalidate a marker of identity about which millions of people organize their fealty and families. And while policing blackness is hardly my favorite pastime, willfully abusing an inherently faulty label does not work either.

One of the features that's difficult about this work is its strong appeals to pathos that paint Dolezal as a perpetual victim. Her recounting of her life suggests that she has suffered many injustices in multiple scenarios. It is troubling, though, to see her heavy-handedly massage the "truth" in terms of race. This misstep ushers others towards questioning other accountings in her life. Is she a reliable narrator? I wrestled with this work more than any other in the short history of this column. It is well written, but overall I do not feel it advances the conversation on race. If there is one conclusion it has gestured towards, it is that race is a conversation, not a box that you check or a binary choice between two poles. For more on ethnic and racial identity, listen to the stories at go.middlebury.edu/inyourownwords. For black, women writers fitting a more traditional bill, try out the collection of poems, salt, by Nayyirah Waheed; tales of travel to Spain in the memoir Kinky Gazpacho by Lori L. Tharps; Longthroat Memoirs: Soups, Sex and Nigerian Tastebuds by Yemisi Aribisala; We Need New Names by NoViolet Bulawayo; the historical fiction novel Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi; or the short story collection Heads of the Colored People by Nafissa Thompson-Spires which will be out April 10th. For more on the phenomenon of racial passing, see Almost Black: The True Story of How I Got Into Medical School by Pretending to Be Black by Vijay Chokal-Ingam or the 1929 novel Passing by Harlem Renaissance writer and former librarian Nella Larsen.

DON'T MISS THIS

Kizuna Dance Performance

Cameron McKinney is a New York City-based choreographer, dancer, educator, and author. He founded Kizuna Dance in 2014 with the mission of creating works that celebrate the Japanese language and culture.

2/22, Thursday, 7 - 8:30 p.m., Manhaney Center for the Arts, Dance Theater. $15/12/8/6

Winter Carnival 2018 Ice Show: Force of Nature

The Ice Show features skaters of all ages and abilities, in a fun event filled with music and costumes. Cheer on the beginners and be dazzled by competitive skaters, including local guest stars and a pair who competed internationally for Team USA.

2/24, Saturday, 5 - 6:30 p.m., Chip Kenyon Arena. $6

Porsha O: Spoken Word Poet

Author and curator of "Anthology Bundle: On Dystopia & On Finding Joy" Porsha O is also the 2014 Individual World Poetry Slam Champion. Join us for an hour of amazing spoken word poetry. End your Black History Month the lit way.

2/27, Tuesday, 7 - 8 p.m., Wilson Hall. Free

Library Display Celebrates Black History Month

By JAMES FINN
Opinion Editor

Literatures and cultures librarian Katrina Spencer has collaborated with other staff and students to create a display in Davis Library celebrating Black History Month. The display has been in place since Thursday, February 1 and will remain in the library until Wednesday, February 28. It consists of books, DVDs, CDs and recommendations for podcasts created by and about black authors, artists and entertainers, according to Spencer. In addition to the physical display in Davis, user experience and digital culture librarian Leanne Galletly worked to curate a digital space for a series of interviews entitled "In Your Own Words." Spencer held these interviews with members of the Middlebury community who "trace their origins to the black diasporas of the world," according to the In Your Own Words web page.

Spencer began working as literatures and cultures librarian last February, on the first day of Black History Month, and immediately felt a need to do more than was being done to celebrate Black History Month at Middlebury. "Succinctly, I saw the need to do more, and once I was in a position to effect change, I did," Spencer said. "I went all out, as I am wont to do."

In creating the display in Davis, Spencer focused on contemporary work of individuals such as Kendrick Lamar and Issa Rae, as well as earlier works by Miles Davis, W .E. B. DuBois and others. The display also includes a collection of essays by James Baldwin, "Dear White People" by Justin Simien, Ernest J. Gaines' "A Lesson Before Dying," and many others. Spencer worked to balance the collection between the works of contemporary authors and artists and the works of earlier generations.

"My primary concern, I suppose, is to remind people of all colors that we have living black heroines and heroes," Spencer said. "Celebrating black history needs to include celebrations of people who are impacting the world in our modern era and still have blood pumping through their veins. We are here. Despite what commemorative ceremonies will tell you, the black struggle did not end in the 1960s."

Spencer said that one of her focuses in selecting the literature was selecting works that came from all over the world, as opposed to focusing solely on the United States. Consequently, the display includes works such as Mariama Bâ's "Une si longue lettre" and music by Cuban singer Celia Cruz.

"My father is a black Costa Rican, so the concept of otherness, foreignness and the immigrant narrative has hovered about me all my life," Spencer said. "If I want to tell my whole story, I must tell stories of Africa, the Caribbean, Central America, the Spanish-speaking world, the Americas and the legacies of both slavery and colonialism, too. I can only tell of who I am by engaging those narratives. And for many of the black and brown students on this campus, the same is true for them, as evidenced by the In Your Own Words oral histories project. So, I primarily drew from my knowledge base and experience and invited others to supplement any gaps. Every student should graduate from Middlebury with an understanding of the concept of 'diaspora.' The black diaspora is one of the richest and most diverse in the world, from Quebec City to Bahia, Paris to Windhoek, New Delhi to Brisbane."

In addition to the physical books on display in Davis, students have the opportunity to engage with podcast recommendations, music and the In Your Own Words interview series. Galletly worked to ideate and curate digital components of the display. "I think it's important that the work going into these doesn't disappear after the display comes down, so the digital display allows people to see the resources anytime," Galletly said. " I think it's valuable, especially for a largely white campus like Middlebury, to hear the perspectives and narratives of non-white people on campus. Learning the stories of those around us is a powerful way to empathize and build connections with our community."

The In Your Own Words series (viewable at go/bhmdigital) is a collection of 11 interviews with members of the Middlebury community. In conducting the interviews, Spencer asked her guests questions regarding changing notions of race and ethnicity based on where they are and who they're with, what her subjects wish others knew about race and ethnicity, and more. Spencer said that working on presenting student stories was equally as important as focusing on media and literature because focusing on abstract figures outside of one's immediate sphere doesn't have the same effect as celebrating the identities of those in one's immediate sphere. "When we talk about Hollywood, we talk about an abstract conceptualization, as Denzel Washington is not my friend and Viola Davis is not my aunt," she said. "We have to make blackness real, tangible, relatable, concrete and intersectional. Again, blackness is not just Plessy v. Ferguson and Brown v. Board of Education. It's right here. It's everywhere. This will help us to understand that Sandra Bland is us. Trayvon Martin is us. And Eric Garner is us. We are still fighting to be seen as human. And if I can help one person to see that their black dorm mate is human, the black woman preparing food in the cafeteria is human or the black librarian who keeps putting up displays is human, I'm realizing a greater mission."

In addition to the In Your Own Words interview series, a digital rendition of the books on display in Davis can be found at go/bhmdigi-

LEANNE GALLETLY

What Matters to You and Why? This Week's Friday Reflection

By MIGUEL ESPINOSA
Features Editor

On Friday, February 19, members of the Middlebury community gathered at the Mitchell Green Lounge to attend the first Reflection Friday series of the semester. The Reflection Friday Series is a program created by the Innovation Hub in which speakers are invited to share what they consider valuable and why.

Among the main goals of the series is to "build bridges of communication amongst faculty and students in an intimate setting." The speaker for February 19 was Mark Orten, Dean of Spiritual and Religious Life. Conducting the interview was Liz Robinson, Associate Dean of the College for Creativity, Engagement & Careers.

The audience was presented with a biography of Orten prior to his tenure at Middlebury. He spent 13 years as the director of religious and spiritual life at Denison University, where he was also chaplain. There, he organized interreligious educational service trips to Guatemala and instituted an interfaith dialogue program. Before Denison, Orten was a Presbyterian chaplain at Princeton University.

When asked about what matters to him, Orten provided a list of eleven items. The first item, process, reflects his belief that any journey toward attaining a desired result is as important as the result itself. A self-described introvert, Orten shared his need for solitude, the second item on his list. The other nine values he finds important are affirmation, dialogue, integrity, communication, consideration, community and ritual.

Orten also spoke of mindfulness, noting the concept's current popularity, and characterized the phenomenon as being fully engaged and present in the moment. Orten insisted that the idea of mindfulness allows people a new way of "recognizing as a whole, something that has always been recognized throughout cultures." In these cultures' continuous attempts to explain reality, they share a common belief: that all of life is infused with sacredness, according to Orten.

He humorously described his attempts at mindfulness as being like a "monk on the freeway." He believes that too much stimulation exists in our society, and that "all our joy and insight" can be found in our internal selves. Orten recommends that we recondition our focus toward being present instead of chasing after external rewards.

Orten believes that if the list of important things is intact during one's day-to-day existence, one is doing well. Otherwise, if one senses that certain qualities are missing, it is time to adjust. To prevent one from deviating from what they consider valuable in life, Orten suggests that they stop, reflect, pay attention and observe.

Orten shared his embracing of certain rituals. He abides by principles of yoga, which ensures that his behavior is grounded in nonviolence. When stressed or anxious, he rings a bell in his office. Orten also lights incense, walks the newly installed labyrinth at the Knoll, and attends church on Sundays, which provides him with a renewed sense of community.

The moments that led Orten to pursuing ordained ministry started in childhood. Growing up in a rural area of North Carolina, Orten found himself passing time by catching baseballs he threw up in the sky. This activity gave him meaning: the feeling that "everything in life belonged" and that every aspect of life was in "complete integration." Raised in a fundamentalist background, Orten went to a religious camp where he was recognized for his potential. He was then invited to attend a series of lectures at Yale. This experience showed him that life was different from the bubble of North Carolina. Orten eventually applied to the Princeton seminary despite backlash from his hometown. At the seminary, he realized the many forms that prayer can manifest itself in life.

Ultimately, the event provided students and faculty the opportunity to explore the ever important question, what do we value? Mark Orten, Dean of Spiritual and Religious Life, shared his ideas during this Friday lunch, but by hearing from other speakers in future reflections, we can expect even more opportunities to explore understanding of one's values.

Mark Orten, Dean of Spiritual and Religious Life

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE

MCAB: The Week Ahead

Thursday

Bonfire and Fireworks
February 22 at 10 pm in front of Milliken

UMOJA Kickoff Party
February 22 at 10 pm at Crossroads Café

Friday

Cupcake Decorating
February 23 at 1 pm at Crossroads Café

FreeFridayFilm:CharlieandtheChocolateFactory
February 23 at 6 pm and 9 pm in Axinn 232

Comedy Show
February 23 at 8:30 pm in Wilson Hall

Ridgeline Block Party
February 23 from 10 pm to 1 am at Brooker, Tavern, Chromatic and Palmer

Saturday

Snow Day
February 24 from 12 pm to 4 pm in the Chateau, the AFC and on Battell Beach

Ice Show
February 24 at 5 pm in Kenyon Arena

Winter Ball
February 24 from 10 pm to 1 am in Nelson Arena

New Workshop Provides Space for Communal Relaxation

By ALLIE STEVENS
Contributing Writer

Between the stress of heavy workloads and the social and societal pressures that students face every day, unwinding and taking time to oneself seems an elusive task. Fortunately, counseling graduate interns Sarah Farrell and David Rapp are attempting to combat this struggle through a weekly "Subtle Body" workshop. The "experiential workshop" itself does not have a fixed agenda or set of expectations—Farrell and Rapp simply hope to create a space for students to discover a different way to relax and unwind.

Farrell and Rapp explained that they decided to use a specific form of "sound therapy" as a way to generate such a meditative space. During the workshop's first session, Farrell and Rapp knelt behind three quartz crystal bowls that sat in the center of the room, and invited everyone to take a position that was comfortable for them, whether that was lying down, sitting up or standing. The leaders began "playing" the crystal bowls, and the room slowly filled with a sound that grew from a small ringing to a loud, almost overwhelming bath of noise. The reverberating song made thought almost impossible to formulate.

Rapp explained that he thinks the tension created in between various notes generates a landscape where the tensions builds and then is resolved when the notes stop competing with one another to be heard. The perfect fifth has been used in sound healing as it is considered a mechanism to promote relaxation with the way the two notes resonate with one another. The F and G notes are close to each other on the scale, which sometimes causes a palpable vibrato-type tension in the air.

Following the period of sound therapy, Rapp brought out a pack of what he referred to as "energy medicine cards." He read aloud from the backs of each of the cards, on which a poem or reflection was written for students to connect with as they chose. Rapp said that he decided to use this type of card because they could be interpreted in the way that was most useful to the listener.

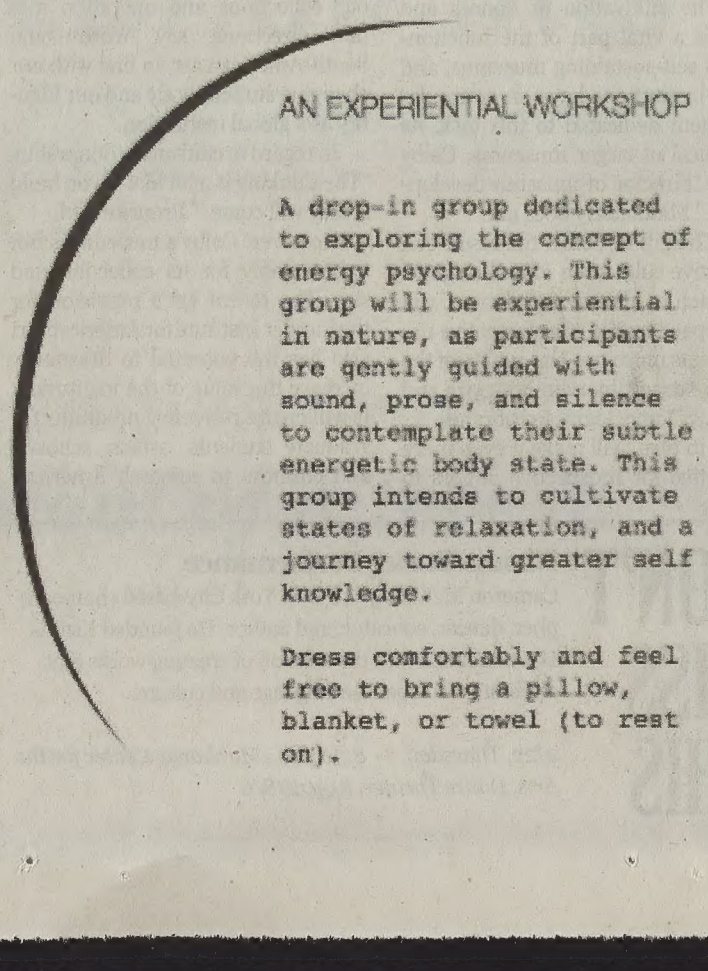
Moving forward with the workshop, Rapp and Farrell are developing this relaxation space based on the student response they receive. Farrell emphasized that she was happy to set the stage and facilitate while students explored what they thought would be most helpful to them and others.

"We were very excited that there is an interest, and we are very open to bringing the bowls and helping create the ambiance," said Farrell.

Rapp and Farrell received many comments after the workshop, and in particular they were happy to hear one student say that they felt connected to people they had never met before.

Rapp said that this one piece of feedback made it all worth it because he believes this is the purpose of the Subtle Body workshop, to connect everyone to themselves and to connect everyone to one another. Building that kind of community can help alleviate stress, promote good health and provide a space for people that they feel safe and comfortable in letting go of the stressors that may plague them throughout the day, according to Rapp.

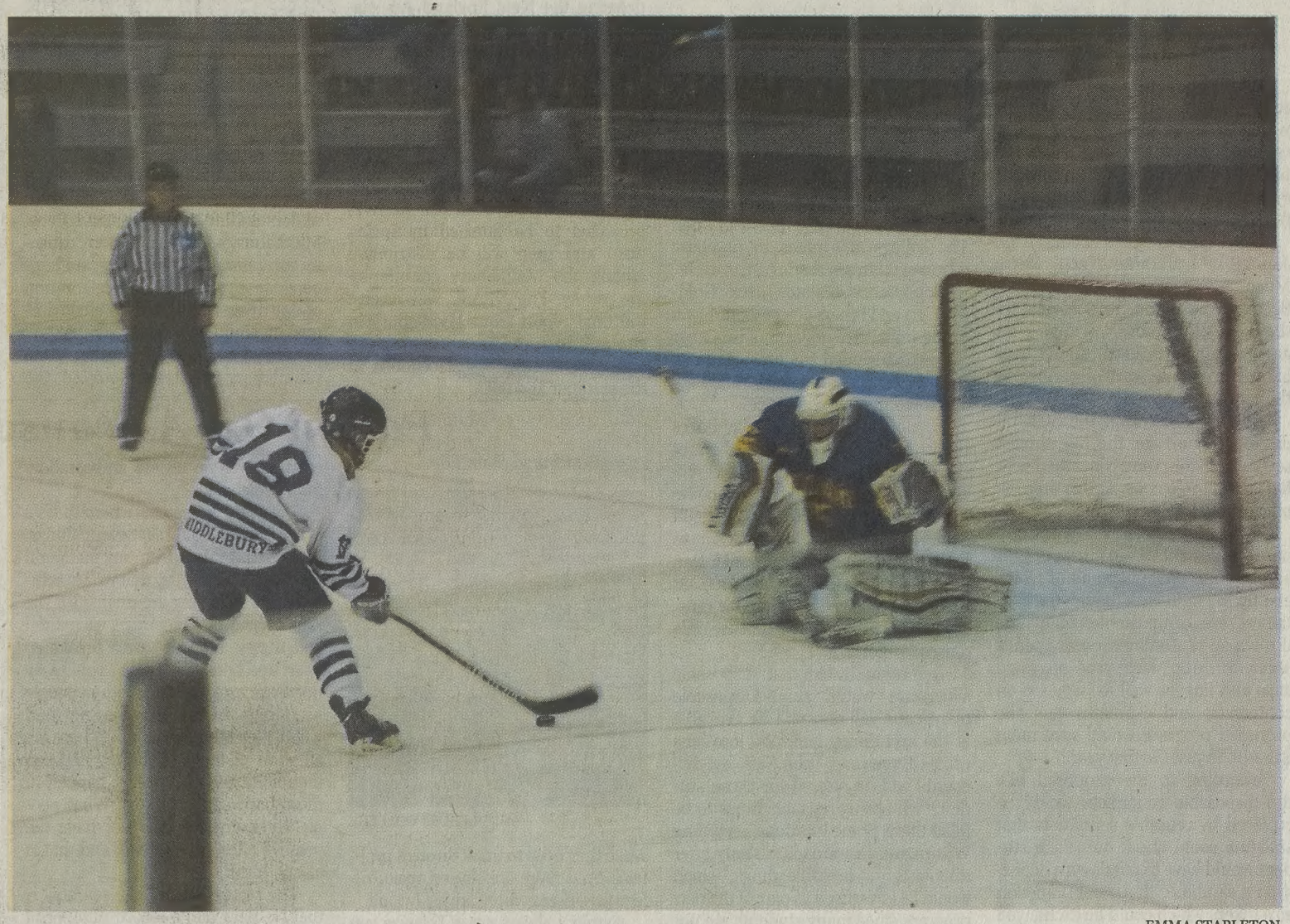
The next Subtle Body workshop is on Tuesday, February 20 from 5:00-6:00 pm in the Mitchell Green Room in McCullough.


AN EXPERIENTIAL WORKSHOP
A drop-in group dedicated to exploring the concept of energy psychology. This group will be experiential in nature, as participants are gently guided with sound, prose, and silence to contemplate their subtle energetic body state. This group intends to cultivate states of relaxation, and a journey toward greater self knowledge.
Dress comfortably and feel free to bring a pillow, blanket, or towel (to rest on).

SPORTS & FUNNIES

Women's Hockey Clinches Top Seed

Panthers Extend Unbeaten Nescac Stretch to Twelve Games



EMMA STAPLETON

Maddie Winslow '18 skates towards the Williams goal, looking for a way to beat the Eph netminder on a penalty shot. She did not score, but Middlebury as a team had no trouble scoring in its 4–2 win on Saturday.

TRACK & FIELD HOSTS NEW ENGLANDS

EMMA STAPLETON

The women's track & field team finished third and the men's team finished fourth at the DIII New England Championships in Virtue Field House on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 16 and 17.

B8

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL FALLS IN NESCACS

MICHAEL BORENSTEIN

Women's basketball lost in heartbreaking fashion by one point to Wesleyan on Saturday, 63–62.

B8

MEN'S HOCKEY FIGHTS TO THE END

MICHAEL BORENSTEIN

Middlebury hung with Hamilton for 40-plus minutes before falling to the Continentals on Saturday. In their final game of the season on Sunday, the Panthers tied Amherst 1–1.

B7

PLAYER AND TEAM OF THE WEEK

B2

GREAT EIGHT

B2

EDITORS' PICKS

B3

3. ETHAN BRADY (34–27, .557)

4. ROB ERICKSON (67–67, .500)

5. SEBASTIAN SANCHEZ (62–82, .431)

Leidt Posts Hat Trick in Senior Night Win

By SEBASTIAN SANCHEZ

The women's hockey team clinched the first-seed in the Nescac playoffs by tying at Williams 3–3 on Friday, Feb. 16, and dismissing the Ephs from Kenyon Arena 4–2 on Saturday, Feb. 17. These results extended the No. 4 Panthers' unbeaten streak in the Nescac to 12 games entering the Nescac playoffs, where they will host eighth-seeded Wesleyan in the quarterfinals on Saturday, Feb. 24 at 1 p.m.

Middlebury traveled down to Williamstown for the first game of the weekend doubleheader and it was truly a battle. Williams took an early lead in the opening period, making the most of its shots and scoring on its first bid, which was also a power play situation. A shot from the bottom of the left circle ricocheted, but the rebound bounced off Lin Han's '20 pads into the back of the net to give the hosts a 1-0 lead.

Williams' Anna Fucillo doubled the host's lead a minute and a half later. But the Panthers cut into the lead on power play goal by Madie Leidt '21, her tenth goal of the season. Jessica Young '18 one-timed a cross-ice pass to Leidt who deposited the puck into the back of the net.

In the second stanza, Middlebury evened the score five minutes in. Elizabeth Wulf '18 broke up a Williams' breakout attempt, and Sidney Porter '21 took over from there. Portner carried the puck up the ice, then fired a shot from the top of the circles past the Eph goalie.

The hosts responded quickly and reclaimed the lead within two minutes of Portner's goal on another power play.

Back-and-forth the game went. With seven minutes left in the third period, the Panthers completed the rally to tie the game at three. After a Panther power play ended, Alexis Ryan '21 caught the puck and threw it on the ice — at the right point. Maddie Winslow '18 then picked it up, dangled it between defenders, and tipped it into the net, setting up overtime.

In the extra period, the Panthers took all seven shots in the five-minute span, with Wulf and Leidt both being denied late in fourth period. No one could find a score and the teams finished deadlocked at three goals apiece.

Han finished with 14 saves, while the Panthers put up 39 shots against Williams' goalie. Although not a loss, Middlebury was not satisfied with Friday's result against Williams, who entered the weekend doubleheader only 3–5–5 in conference play.

"After the tie, we knew we needed to come out harder and faster right out of the gate on Saturday," said Julie Neuburger '18. "Part of why I love playing in the Nescac is because any team can win on any given day. Every game is a battle and when we win, it makes the victories that much more satisfying — especially knowing you had to work really hard to earn them."

Janka Hlinka continued, "after tying the first game, we had to refocus for Saturday and play the way we knew we were capable of playing. Every game matters and we had to bring a sense of urgency to Saturday's game."

The Panthers recognized its six seniors — for their achievements, including two-time Nescac champions — on Saturday, and the outgoing Panthers made sure their last home regular season game was one to remember.

To highlight the special night, Leidt had herself an amazing game, completing a hat trick along with a goal by Young to give the hosts a win over the Ephs.

Middlebury took an early 1–0 lead when Ledit recorded her first score of the night. Katherine Jackson '19 found Leidt entering the zone. The first-year fired a shot from the top of the left-faceoff circle, which bounded off the crossbar and into the back of the net.

Williams had no real opportunity in the opening period, as Neuburger simply denied all shots, and the hosts headed into the second stanza holding on to a one goal advantage.

Williams erased the deficit in the opening 17 seconds of the second period, sneaking the puck past Neuburger off a scramble for a loose puck.

Young, however, responded for the Panthers, redirecting a shot by Leidt into the back of the net for her team-leading 15th tally of the season on a five-on-four power play advantage.

Young and Leidt found themselves in tandem again in the following period. On Middlebury's third power play opportunity six minutes into the third period, Young found Liedt from the left point, who one-timed the puck into the back of the net for her second score of the game.

For good measure, Young and Leidt connected one more time, as the first-year notched her first career hat-trick and sealed the deal for Middlebury. Williams scored later in the third period with its goalie pulled, but Middlebury got the 4–2 win.

Neuburger picked up 13 saves, and the offensive unit put 38 shots on goal in Middlebury's last game of the regular season, an unforgettable way for the Middlebury seniors to go out.

"Senior night was so special," said Wulf, one of the six seniors. "Our teammates did an amazing job of making it special. We all couldn't believe the night was already here, but we soaked it all up and enjoyed it as much as we could.

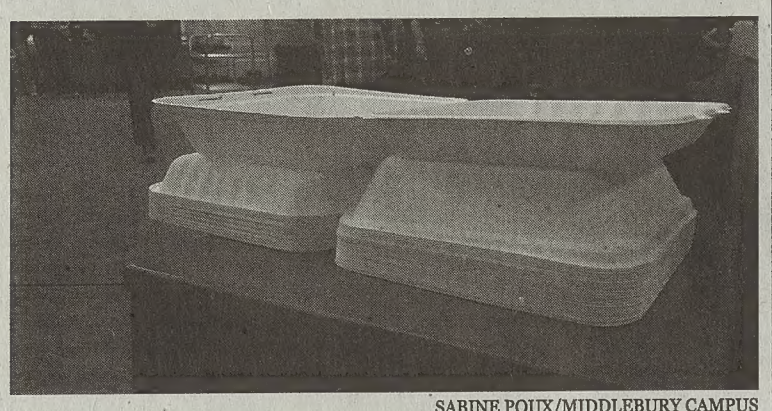
"Starting all the seniors was a moment I'll never forget, it was awesome. It was definitely an emotional night, but we were so happy to come away with a win. It was a night I'll remember forever, and I would not have wanted to celebrate it with anyone other than my five other classmates."

Actually, the seniors and their teammates are not done in Kenyon Arena yet this season. They will host Wesleyan on Saturday, Feb. 24, and, if they win, will host the Nescac semifinals and finals the following weekend. Ranked fourth nationally, Middlebury will almost assuredly get to host at least one game in the NCAA tournament as well, not to look ahead too far.

First, Middlebury plays Wesleyan, whom the Panthers beat twice earlier in the season, 3–0 and 4–0. The Cardinals enter the quarterfinal matchup with a 2–10–4 Nescac record, but earned a spot in the playoffs by upsetting third-seeded in the last weekend of the regular season.

EMMA STAPLETON

The Panthers and their Kenyon Arena fans celebrate Madie Leidt '21's hat trick on Saturday in Middlebury's last home regular season game.



SABINE POUX/MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

To-go boxes near the entrance to Proctor Dining Hall.

REUSABLE FOODWARE ON THE WAY

By BEN DOHAN
Contributing Writer

Dining services has ordered 2,000 reusable containers and is working with student authors of an SGA bill to create a reusable to-go container system. They hope to switch over to the system one week after students return from spring break.

The SGA bill was introduced on Jan. 28 by Leif Taranta '20.5, Sierra Moen '17.5 and Feb Senator and SGA Speaker Rae Aaron '19.5. It calls for the complete removal of to-go cups and containers from all dining halls in order to reduce waste generated by the college.

A straw poll within the SGA indicated support for the bill, though several senators were concerned with the loss of to-go cups. At this time, no official vote has been taken.

The college currently uses 241,000 non-compostable to-go cups per year and 181,000 containers, all of which end up in landfills. Although the containers are compostable, many are thrown away. Dining services spends about $21,000 each year on to-go cups and lids, as well as $27,000 on containers, and estimates that the proposed program would save them $12,000 in just the first year.

According to the proposed bill, the disposable containers would be replaced by reusable containers that students could check out. Each student would have to put down a deposit on a carabiner that would function as a token, which could be exchanged for a to-go box at the dining halls. When the box is returned, the student would be given another token to get a new box in the future. Dining services would then clean the containers for students. Students would be expected to provide their own travel thermoses if they wanted to take away hot drinks.

Students would pay five dollars at any campus retail location to get their first carabiners, which they could exchange for their five dollar deposits at any time. These deposits would be applied to their declining balances. If a student lost their carabiner or reusable container, they would have to pay another $5 to get a new carabiner.

The new containers cost the college $6,995 or $3.50 per container. The college also plans to purchase 2,000 carabiners, costing $1.15 each.

Sophomore Senator Jack Goldfield '20 and others voiced opposition to the initial five dollar buy-in. Other concerns included the ease of use of the new system and the availability and cleanliness of containers.

A pilot period for the to-go boxes occurred during December and one of the complaints of the otherwise-successful program was that the boxes were too big. "It would be too difficult from an operational standpoint to have multiple containers," said Dan Detora, head of dining. He also said that other colleges with similar reusable to-go container systems use only one container size.

Detora indicated that disposable silverware would stay. Disposable to-go cups will also still be available at the non-dining hall food locations campus, such as Wilson Café, but discounts will be offered for those students who bring reusable mugs to be filled there. Some locations, including Wilson and Crossroads, already offer discounts for reusable mugs, which would be advertised as part of the new program since many students are not aware of the discounts.

A clause in the bill stipulates that travel mugs and water bottles be made available for purchase at wholesale prices at college retail locations and that students receiving financial aid will receive funds to cover these additional costs.

Patton Article

Continued from Page A1

bury if I didn't believe as a person that this institution's values were my own values," she said.

Patton fielded several questions about financial aid, which she called "the number one priority for me for fundraising over the next ten years." She said she favored "slowly" growing the number of students on financial aid "in a way that's financially sustainable" and leaves a balanced budget.

But, Patton said, full-paying students are necessary for the school's current financial model.

When asked about how the college will distinguish itself in higher education, Patton described Middlebury as an "elite liberal arts college with fantastic graduate programs."

"I think there are days when we can't decide whether we're Amherst or Hampshire. We're in between those two places," she said.

Patton proposed ways for Middlebury to collaborate with other NESCAC schools beyond the athletic field. She cited Colby's museum of art, which last week received a $100 million gift to establish an institute for American art. (See Page A1.)[link: https://www.bostonglobe.com/arts/art/2017/02/03/million-gift-set-transform-colby-college-museum-art/B916OI6JAm7TSB7QgoFjAN/story.html]

"Wouldn't it be interesting for them to collaborate with our museum, which is growing and changing and doing interesting things?" she said.

In the interview, Patton stressed her goal of balancing the institution's budget. She said that Middlebury was meeting its budget goals and surpassing them slightly. Monterey surpassed its own goals "at a greater percentage than the college has," she said, for which she was proud.

She defended how Monterey is valuable to Middlebury and to the world, citing the institute's consistent citing in New York Times articles on North Korea's nuclear weapons program.

Patton also spoke about national and world issues. She called economic inequality "one of the major issues of our time," and said that America is facing a "deeply difficult national moment." She also cited Britain and Europe, where in the past several years populist movements have upended governments and institutions.

"Our challenge at Middlebury is that we need to embrace the difficulty of that moment and live through it."

When asked about the nature of speech in the internet age, Patton said the instantaneous nature of communication "makes a huge difference to every minute of our days." Students in 2018 exist "in a public sphere that nobody else has existed in, ever."

It's "very difficult to figure out at any given moment whether something is a public conversation or whether it's a private conversation." Because of that, she said, participation in the public sphere "takes more courage today."

Patton often used terminology about travel to describe the school. "Middlebury now is not so much a noun, but a verb," Patton said. "We are travelers."

She mentioned travel across campuses — digital and physical. She cited interpreters for the United Nations who are affiliated with Monterey, professors who travel back and forth between Vermont and California, and video conferencing between Middlebury and Monterey, which occurred in the course on water Patton taught last spring.

Patton said she wanted to make sure "that instantaneous quality of life, as well as that hyper-connected quality of life, can be in service of liberal education."

She said the college's master plan, a campus planning document approved in 2008, should be connected to the school's mission and vision. She used the temporary computer science building being built behind Johnson Memorial Building, in E lot, as an example of how her administration has adapted to changing times.

"This campus was not built for students from underrepresented backgrounds," she said, but for "usually white" students in the 1800s going into "traditional male vocations."

The spaces between buildings could be populated with works of public art, she said. She encouraged students to propose "pop-up contemplative spaces" on campus through the Fund for Innovation. She also praised a proposal by the Anderson Freeman Center to paint murals in buildings around campus.

Patton also answered questions about the Me Too movement and its impact on the college.

She said the movement "opened up all sorts of really important issues for everyone, around questions of sexual assault, around questions of reporting, and so forth."

When asked how the college planned to address sexual assault in the wake of "The List," Patton spoke about the Title IX office.

"If history is any indication, I expect and have confidence that the Title IX office will continue to respond to the needs of students," she said.

She said the Title IX office needs to "continue to respond" to the campus's changing needs while prioritizing "fairness for all students." The college's judicial system should be fair and open, she said, and the conversation about justice should be "always evolving."

She spoke about three kinds of justice: one of equality, one of equity, and a moral justice, which deals with "righting historical wrongs."

"All of those three ideas of justice should be at play in the mini-society that is Middlebury" — a society, she said, "of learners and teachers."

President Announces Four New Projects

By BOCHU DING
Staff Writer

President Laurie L. Patton sent four school-wide emails last week outlining major projects occurring in the spring and following semesters. The emails laid out a variety of initiatives including accreditation, transformational goals for the institution, a contest for new traditions and restorative practices on campus.

In the first email, Patton announced that Middlebury's accreditation evaluation is scheduled for fall 2019. To prepare for the review, the college will launch a self-study addressing the New England Association of Schools and Colleges' (NEASC) nine standards for accreditation.

Interim provost Jeff Cason and associate provost for planning LeRoy Graham will co-chair the self-study, which will be coordinated by the Office of the Provost and will seek input from the steering committee.

A draft of the final self-study is projected to be finished by spring 2019 and then will be distributed among the Middlebury community for review. The NEASC will receive the final report from Middlebury in summer 2019 and its review team will visit several on-campus locations in the summer and fall.

In the second email, sent Wednesday, Feb. 14, Patton announced that the Board of Trustees endorsed three transformational goals for the college as next steps in the Envisioning Middlebury process. The committee that spearheaded the effort described the Middlebury they envision by pursuing their goals: Middlebury as a center for persuasive and inclusive dialogue, a laboratory for curricular innovation and experiential learning and a globally networked changemaker.

Small working groups of student leaders, faculty and trustees will collaborate this spring to identify objectives to forward the three goals. Provost Susan Baldridge will detail further instructions for how individuals can align their work with the strategic framework in the next few days.

The following day, Patton announced a contest for creating new traditions at Middlebury.

Submissions will be judged on the basis of five criteria, including an understanding and appreciation of Middlebury's 200 year history, capacity for community building and connections, recognition and celebration of our diverse and multifaceted campus, ingenuity and creativity that will inspire students and feasibility. One submission will be announced the winner by the end of April and will be instituted and fully funded by Old Chapel.

Patton ended the week's communication with an email announcing the adoption of restorative practices on Friday, Feb. 16. Patton emphasized that the restorative practices will not replace disciplinary processes, but that they will "exist alongside those processes."

The email announced the formation of a steering committee to implement restorative practices at the college. The committee will include one student who completed the restorative practices training in Dec. 2017, dean of students Baishakhi Taylor, dean of the faculty Andi Lloyd, chief diversity officer Miguel Fernández, general counsel Hannah Ross, vice president for human resources and risk Karen Miller, dean of spiritual and religious life Mark Orten and judicial officer Brian Lind.

The committee plans to organize several proactive circles this spring where members of the community will be invited to discuss the Committee on Speech and Inclusion's Jan. 10 report.

Patton also mentioned that incoming residential life staff will be trained to facilitate restorative practices.

Patton Q & A Transcript

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MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE

when they need to think through problems. And there are several male college presidents whose advice I value.

Family's always great, because you know they have your best interests at heart. It's also very important to me that I maintain my long-term friendships. Every day I get up and write to two or three friends, just as a form of gratitude. I also frequently just check in with them and see where they are. So every day I have a conversation with one or two friends that are completely unrelated to Middlebury.

ZHOU: Do you find personal opinions conflict with your opinions as a president?

PATTON: Yes. I wouldn't have come to Middlebury if I didn't believe that my values were not aligned with the institution's values. Every day I think about Middlebury's values, articulate Middlebury's values, promote them and talk about them. I do so because I'm committed to them personally. So that's the most important clarification that I would make.

ETHAN BRADY: What is the college doing to address socioeconomic disparity, in terms of both numbers and impacts on campus culture?

PATTON: I think there are two different ways you can address those issues. The first is increasing financial aid. As you know, financial aid remains my number one priority for fundraising over the next ten years. I think is essential that we increase the number — slowly — of people on Pell Grants, and that we increase the number of people on financial aid. That's the kind of work that I do — and love to do — every day.

Obviously, our financial model is such that right now, in order for us to provide the education that we do provide, full-paying students play a role. But the more we can create greater access through all the ways that we just talked about, in both getting into Middlebury, and then studying at Middlebury, the better off we'll be. And we need student leadership to help with that. Because the student experience at the everyday level is where we can get better.

POLLARD: What niche do you think Middlebury occupies amongst the other NESCAC schools and in the larger scope of higher education? How are we going to continue to differentiate ourselves moving forward?

PATTON: On certain days — when I'm feeling like having a sense of humor — I think there are days when we can't decide whether we're Amherst or Hampshire. We're in between those two places. But if you actually look at us, we are an elite liberal arts college with fantastic graduate programs. That is what we are.

But what I really would like to see in the NESCAC schools is more collaboration. What are the ways in which we could collaborate more, not just on the athletic field? For example, Colby has a first-rate museum of art, and wouldn't it be interesting for them to collaborate with our museum, which is growing and changing and doing interesting things — and has a new pink sign, right?

BRADY: It seems that in the wake of Charles Murray, a lot of people now have a certain association with this school. So as an ambassador of the institution, when you're traveling around, across the globe, how do you defend the institution, and what do you talk about in those interactions?

PATTON: These are questions that are good for everybody, because at a certain level we all are ambassadors for Middlebury.

But as the person for whom that's a primary job, I would say several things. First — and this is from my inaugural address — I would say that we are actually good at having arguments for the sake of heaven. Sometimes it's painful and messy and hard, and breaks us apart and breaks us open. People may not land exactly where other people want them to land. They may not land where they intended to land. There are all sorts of tough distances between intentions and effects that happen in these hard conversations. What people communicate may not have the positive effect they intend, and that is always hard.

The second thing I can say now is that we have had a record number of applicants this year, which is a wonderful fact. That includes a record number of students of color, as well as a record number of international student applicants. Who knows why that is the case. Last spring we did a study of admitted students, and one of the interesting findings was that students were still intending to enroll at Midd because it was perceived as a place where real issues are talked about in really hard ways by real people. I was impressed by that, and that's something I speak about when I'm traveling around the globe.

BRADY: In the internet age, when people are able to communicate across the globe in seconds, and publish an article or an essay and post it online, how do you think that affects this idea of speech, or the public sphere?

PATTON: I think it makes a huge difference in every minute of our days. I would say to students: you exist in a public sphere that nobody else has existed in, ever. And I can't imagine some days what that must feel like.

The way I think about Middlebury now is not so much a noun, but a verb. We are travelers. In that way, we always have to learn how to travel well. We travel across campuses, both digitally as well as actually. There are ways in which we have a real interesting opportunity to make sure that that this instantaneous quality of online life, as well as that hyper-connected quality of online life, can be in service of liberal education. I think we need to continue to reflect on that.

POLLARD: David Provost noted how Monterey was going to need to make seven percent budget cuts moving forward. How does Monterey fit into Middlebury's vision?

PATTON: I'll begin by saying I think Monterey is of real value, both to Middlebury and to the world. We need only turn to the example of how much it has helped in the last three or four months on the issue of North Korea.

The main thing I want to say about Monterey is that every part of Middlebury should wish for its success. Part of what it means to be a great liberal arts college with fantastic graduate programs is that every unit should wish for the success of every other unit. That's our only way forward. If a unit does well, either intellectually or financially, that helps everybody: all boats rise with that tide. That's the perspective I want to make sure people embrace.

BRADY: The master plan was a document produced in 2008, which is similar to Envisioning Middlebury. Does the college plan in the future to follow that document? In what ways can we balance the vision that we have with financial realities?

PATTON: We have a Buildings, Grounds and Lands Subcommittee of the Board of Trustees that is vigilant about this. A perfect example of the need to update a master plan would be the temporary building that we will begin work on in the next several months. That was an important moment for Middlebury, because it's exactly related to your question, which is how you figure out a way to respond to needs that you didn't anticipate.

We can't afford to tear down all the buildings and create new spaces, but I think there are ways that we can continually think about space utilization in different eras, and 2018 looks different than even 1998 did.

Consider the wonderful murals that have been done in the Anderson Freeman Center. Why not do several murals around campus like that? Why not think about the next ten years as a place where art can occupy a new role on campus, and create a different kind of space utilization that could be more welcoming, and make our campus more welcoming?

POLLARD: You mentioned before that there are needs we don't anticipate as a college campus. In relation to the Me Too movement and "The List," how will the college address this issue moving forward?

PATTON: I think that the number-one priority for the Title IX office, and for Middlebury more broadly, is to make sure that we are a place where students feel that they can report crimes of bias, crimes of sexual assault, and all of the other areas that fall under Title IX. That has to be our number-one priority.

Another top priority has to be for fairness for all students. Those two things are what we're committed to and what our Middlebury values demand. So moving forward, what I expect, and know we can and should do, is to make sure that we live up to those values even in changing situations. The Me Too movement opened up all sorts of difficult issues for everyone around questions of sexual assault, around questions of reporting, and so forth.

POLLARD: Do you see any kind of educational element moving forward? Any kind of blanket, almost required-for-all-students portion? I know that the Vermont executive branch has required an in-course training for all government officials on sexual assault training.

PATTON: We do have training as part of orientation. I think it's great that all first-year students have that training and we put that in place in the last couple of years. And I think we should continue it. That's absolutely essential.

Let's also continue to make sure that that training is relevant to the kinds of constantly changing situations that we're seeing. And I think that conversation should be had on a regular basis. And if we need to expand or change what we're doing given the situations that we find ourselves in, then I expect and have confidence that we'll be able to do that. The educational element is key. The Title IX office is eager to embrace that, and deepen that as an opportunity, and I support it 100 percent.

BRADY: The Title IX office is sort of like a justice system. Thinking of the campus as almost a small society, what is justice on this campus? And what does that mean for the students who go here?

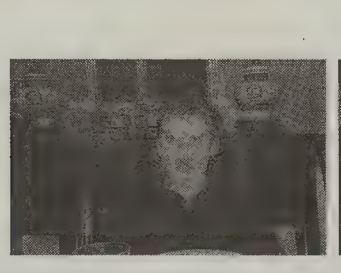
PATTON: In my training in conflict mediation, we talk about three different kinds of justice. It's important to remember that there are three different kinds of justice that are part and parcel of our world. There are many more, but certainly three major ones.

The first is the idea of justice as a system of equality, where ideas about fairness take center stage. The second is the question of justice as equity: how much I put in is what I would get out of any given social engagement. The third kind of justice is a moral one. This has to do with righting historical wrongs and acknowledging where society does not fully recognize of some of its citizens, or does not fully represent them, or does not take care of some of its most vulnerable people.

All of those three ideas of justice should be at play in the mini-society that is Middlebury. And the number-one thing we have to do as a society of learners and teachers is to reflect on those three ideas of justice and what their relationship is with one another. Can we design a system that makes sure that those three ideas of justice are part and parcel of how we live together?

Amelia Pollard and Elizabeth Zhou transcribed this interview. A full transcript is continued at www.middleburycampus.com.

EDITORS' PICKS



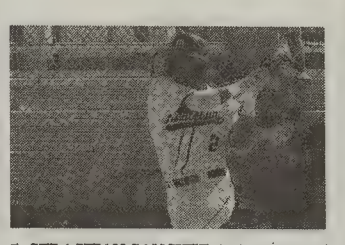
1a. WILL CASE (148–100, .597)

462 straight days in first place (in jeopardy this week....)

1b. ANDREW RIGAS (135–91, .597)

3. ETHAN BRADY (39–27, .591)

4. ROB ERICKSON (70–69, .504)



5. SEBASTIAN SANCHEZ (65–84, .436)

Men's squash: Will the Panthers take home their seventh Summer's Cup in the last decade when they compete in the C draw at nationals this weekend?	YES Although they lost to F&M earlier this season, and no one in the 1–5 made it past the fourth game, things were much closer than they appeared. On top of that, there's extra motivation from being buried in the CSA's rankings at no. 21 behind teams they know they can beat.	NO They're the fifth-ranked team in their draw.	YES I will follow Will's lead.	NO Somebody's gotta be the bad guy, right?	OF COURSE It seems only right that they secure the spot.
Women's hockey: Middlebury (-3.5) vs. Wesleyan at Kenyon on Saturday, puck-drop at 1 p.m.	WESLEYAN Panthers win 3–0 (For reference, we won 3–0 and 4–0 vs the Cards so far this season)	MIDDLEBURY They've hit their stride at the right time.	MIDDLEBURY The Lady Panthers take this one.	PANTHERS Panthers cover the spread. Sanch is wack.	PANTHERS 3–0 I'm the writer so I have to bet for them! [Other editors' note: unfortunately, Will still can't seem to describe what a "spread" is to Sebastian.]

Big 12 Saturday CBB:

*All on the ESPN family of networks

Baylor at TCU	TCU The Bears seem like a team on the up-and-up (they were on a 5-game winning streak prior to playing WVU). But my gut tells me TCU...or could it be the thing I ate for dinner that the dining hall also served at lunch the day before?	TCU The Horned Frogs beat the Bonnies. They're a good team.	TCU Remember	TCU Baylor always brings the heat, but I'm going TCU on this one. Neighbors for me.	BAYLOR Because Hotchkiss alum — Makai mason will be playing for them next year and I gotta start rootin' for em!
OK ST. at Texas	TEXAS Shaka Smart's squad may be clicking at the right time.	TEXAS Mo Bamba, look him up.	TEXAS the	TEXAS I've got to!	TEXAS Hook 'em!
No. 8 KU at No. 6 Texas Tech	KU But don't get too excited Jayhawks fans. Bill Self's team has the making of a typical KU squad — a Big 12 champ that gets sent home in March before the equinox.	TEXAS TECH Down go the Jayhawks and their conference championship streak. There's a new sheriff in town.	TEXAS TECH Alamo.	TTU Tech takes this one, first time in 13 years that KU doesn't win the Big 12.	KU With the upset!
Iowa ST. at No. 21 Press VA	PRESS VA With the refs not in Iowa St.'s pocket, Press VA gets it done in Morgantown.	PRESS VA The better team wins this game.	PRESS VA Get down in Morgantown.	IOWA ST. Love the upset.	IOWA ST. Because why not!
Kansas State at Oklahoma	OKLAHOMA Lon Kruger's bunch has hit a bit of a rough patch of late, but they already got blown out of the gym in Manhattan earlier this year. Look for Kruger's current team to get a win against one of his old ones.	OKLAHOMA They've hit the skids, but the Sooners will stop the slide, at least temporarily, at in the warm confines of home.	OKLAHOMA Something good always comes in Oklahoma.	K-STATE Ain't nothing good ever come out of Oklahoma.	OKLAHOMA I'm a believer in Trae Young
EPL Sunday: Man Utd. vs. Chelsea (-1)	MAN UTD Despite the way things are looking, they've got the better team in this one, even if they are not better coached.	MAN UTD It's going to be a tie.	CHELSEA I have a feeling about this one.	MAN UTD Man Utd. covers. Win by two.	MAN UTD I don't know much about soccer but apparently apparently they are good.
#MLB Spring Training Action: Florida Southern vs. Detroit Tigers (-7.5) (Lakeland, Florida)	FLA SOUTHERN Although they usually do money lines and not the spread when calculating baseball lines, we were in a pinch and this seems appropriate.	DETROIT This question seems out of the blue. My only explanation is Will's current state of mind. I've never seen the man as frazzled as he was when he found out we were tied in the Eds' Picks standings.	DETROIT This game requires a few gambles once in a while. Here's mine.	FLA SOUTHERN Can't bet against the Mocsies.	FLA SOUTHERN Agree with Rob.

Skiing Teams Ready and Raring for Middlebury Carnival

By JAKE TURTEL

To cap off syllabus week, the Middlebury nordic and alpine ski teams competed in the Williams Carnival. After Friday and Saturday, Feb. 16 and 17, Middlebury finished in third place as a combined team.

The men's nordic team opened the competition in a strong way, finishing first in the 10K Classic event. Sam Wood '19 highlighted the day with his first career victory, leading the entire pack and finishing in 29:45.4. Just two seconds behind him at 29:47.1 was Lewis Nottonson '19 with a career-best finish of his own (second place). Rounding out the top-ten for the Panthers were Adam Luban '18 (eighth place – 30:18.4) and Peter Wolter '21 (tenth place – 30:26.9). Jacob Volz '18 also contributed a fine effort, placing 14th (30:45.0).

When asked what led to such a strong showing, Luban said a lot of things came together. "The snow conditions were actually really sloppy and terrible, but our coaches did a fantastic job on our skis. We've worked a lot on mental toughness this year and being able to tough out the tough days and that really showed." Luban emphasized that the men's margin of victory (22 points) was the "largest margin of victory for our team in a decade."

The woman's side also saw some fantastic individual efforts and finished in second place, with Cate Brams '18 tying a career-best finish of second place (16:39.4) in the Women's 5K Classic. Katie Feldman '18 placed eighth (17:16.5), while Alexandra Lawson '21 achieved a tenth-place finish (17:28.4). Also doing well were Annika Landis '20 (12th place – 17:35.3) and Orli Schwartz '20 (15th place – 17:50.6).

For the Alpine teams, Caroline Bartlett '19 paced the women's squad with a two-run time of 1:45.43, good for 11th place in the Giant Slalom. Lexi Calcagni '19 also finished in the top-20, finishing in 1:45.91 (16th place).

Erik Arvidsson '21 was the first finisher for the men with a time of 1:42.25 (eighth place) and Riley Plant '18 was the other top-20 performer (11th place – 1:42.54). Plant, however was .02 seconds away from a top-ten finish, and the men finished the Giant Slalom in second place.

On day two, Brams put on another strong performance in the 3.8K Freestyle. Brams crossed the line at 9:39.6, good for seventh place. Behind her were Feldman (13th place – 9:51.4), Lawson (16th place – 9:55.0), and Schwartz (19th place – 9:58.6). Wood also skied well, posting another top-ten finish at eighth place (8:28.8), with Wolter and Luban also earning points (13th place and 19th place, respectively). Both teams finished the event in third overall, with Brams and Wood named EISA women's and men's nordic skiers of the week, respectively.

In the Slalom event, Lucia Bailey '21 finished in 2:09.38, which cracked the top-10. Katie Utter '20 also finished in the top-20, ending up in 16th place (2:10.6).

Arvidsson continued to race well, posting a second-place time of 1:52.79. Plant was the lone other Panther male to score points, finishing in 19th place.

This Friday and Saturday the Panthers will return to the mountain for the Middlebury Carnival (EISA Championships) at the Snow Bowl. For Luban and the Nordic squad, they are "looking forward to throwing down at our home carnival and then sending a full contingent to NCAA championships."

"We always joke on the team that [the Middlebury] Carnival is the only weekend that matters, but coming up to the last time I'll race at Rikert, it doesn't feel like a joke," Bram's explaims. "There's so much pride in hosting NCAA Regionals at Middlebury, and then there's also something special about the last Carnival of my college career being Midd Carnival. It's always the best weekend of the year, and I'm just stoked to see what the team can do."

With the College providing shuttles to the Bowl, come one, come all and bring the noise.

SHOPPING LISZT

MILLIE VON PLATEN

Such a horrible tragedy, we give our thoughts and prayers...
...If only there was something we could do—
UNITED STATES CONGRESS
Um, there is.
BAN THE AR-15
BAN ASSAULT WEAPONS
Like, there literally is something you can do.
BAN ASSAULT WEAPONS
. . .
UNITED STATES CONGRESS
Like I said, we give our thoughts and prayers...
UNITED STATES CONGRESS

KAITLYND COLLINS

JENNY MOSS

TheofficialpizzaoftheMiddleburyCampus

GREEN PEPPERS

LOCAL | HANDCRAFTED | FRESHLY PREPARED | AT YOUR CONVENIENCE

[802]388-3164

Men's Basketball Tumbles in Nescacs, Awaits Selection Monday

By ANDREW RIGAS

Behind 50–44 with 9:55 remaining on their home court, No. 14 Wesleyan outscored No. 18 Middlebury 29–15 the rest of the way to defeat the Panthers 73–65 in the Nescac Quarterfinals last Saturday, Feb. 17. The fourth-seeded Cardinals (20–5) defeated the fifth-seeded Panthers (19–6) for the second time this season to move on to the Nescac semifinals, while Middlebury will wait until Monday, Feb. 26, to see if it receives an at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament.

Entering this year, Middlebury had defeated Wesleyan 15 games in a row, dating back to the 2004-05 season, but the Cardinals snapped that streak with their 80–70 win on Jan. 6.

Wesleyan's rise in the Nescac hierarchy has corresponded with the arrival of Joe Reilly as head coach, who has brought Wesleyan from a 1–8 conference record the year before he became coach to a 7–3 record and a tie for first-place in the Nescac this year. Reilly has also guided the Cardinals to the NCAA tournament two of the last three seasons.

Middlebury jumped out to a 4–0 lead in the first half of Saturday's game, but never led by more than six points in the first half. Wesleyan tied the score on four different occasions in a low-scoring first half. The Panthers turned Wesleyan's 11 first half turnovers into nine points to take a 32–28 lead into halftime. The Cardinals hung around by hitting six of their 13 three-point attempts, including Antone Walker coming off the bench to drain all three of his shots from beyond the arc.

Out of the locker room, Wesleyan converted an old-fashioned three-point play and made another from beyond the arc in the first minute of action to take a two-point lead, their first of the game. Seven minutes later, behind by one point, Middlebury, driven by seven points from Griffin Kornaker '21, went on a 9–2 run to retake the lead, 50–44.

Once more, Wesleyan responded, tying the game at 50 before going on what would prove to be the game's decisive run. From Kornaker's layup at the 9:55 mark to put Middlebury ahead 50–44, until another Kornaker bucket with 2:08 remaining, the Panthers made only one field goal in six attempts, from Jack Daly '18 and turned the ball over four times. Wesleyan outscored Middlebury 20–7 in that crucial stretch of almost eight minutes.

As Daly noted, Wesleyan "was able to keep us off the offensive glass down the stretch. That's been one of our biggest strengths this year and they did a great job of limiting our shot opportunities each possession."

Entering the game, Middlebury averaged 15.67 offensive rebounds per game, almost two more than any other team in the conference. On Saturday, Middlebury grabbed 12, most of which were team offensive rebounds off blocked shots, and zero as Wesleyan took the lead in this eight-minute stretch. Wesleyan blocked 11 shots as a team, including eight by Jordan Sears.

Kornaker's basket at the 2:08 mark brought Middlebury within five, 64–59, but Wesleyan made enough free throws in the last two minutes to secure a 73–65 victory and a spot in the Nescac Semifinals.

65 points is Middlebury's lowest scoring mark this season, for a team that averaged 81 points per game entering the playoff game on Saturday.

A lot of credit goes to Wesleyan, who has had one of the stingiest defenses in the Nescac this season, ranked first in opponent field goal percentage and second in scoring defense.

"Wesleyan is one of the best defensive teams in the country, so we knew it was going to be a battle," Daly said. "Offensively, we had great movement on the perimeter, but not much attacking and dishing the ball in the last 10 minutes."

Daly led the Panthers in defeat with 20 points, including 14 in the second half, and six assists. Matt Folger '20 added 17 points, six rebounds and four steals, and Kornaker scored nine off the bench.

Wesleyan will play top-seeded Amherst this Saturday, Feb. 26, in the semifinals. In the other semifinal game, second-seeded Williams matches up with third-seeded Hamilton.

The Panthers will hold their breath until Monday, Feb. 19, when the NCAA DIII Committee makes its selections for the 64-team tournament field. 43 conference champions receive automatic bids into the tournament, leaving 21 spots for at-large teams. Middlebury is no. 18 in this week's D3hoops.com national poll. In the final poll before last season's selections, 13 of the 21 teams to receive at-large bids were not ranked. The Panthers should be in a good position to receive a bid, but no one knows for sure until the committee releases its decisions on Monday, Feb. 26.

The Panthers were as high as No. 5 in the country before three consecutive losses that knocked them out of the first-seed in the Nescac playoffs and then the playoffs themselves. But those losses were on the road to No.13 Hamilton, Amherst, and Wesleyan, three of the teams who tied for first in the Nescac, along with Middlebury and Williams.

"Right now it's all about keeping a positive mindset, practicing hard every day, and watching as much film as we can to learn from our mistakes," said Daly. "It's all about remaining focused over the next couple of weeks. As Coach has been saying all year, we just need to stay the course despite the bumps in the road."

The Panthers had a stretch like this one earlier in the season, when they lost to three out of five games to No. 12 York, No. 11 Swarthmore and Wesleyan. That time, they responded by rattling off 12-straight victories, including a win over Nescac rival, No. 8 Wesleyan.

If Middlebury is chosen for one of the 21 at-large bids, they will play in the NCAA tournament for the ninth time in 11 seasons. However, unlike last season when the Panthers hosted all four of its tournament games, they will likely be on the road in every game they play. 16 teams host the first two rounds of the 64-team tournament, and as the 18th-ranked team eliminated from the Nescac playoffs early, Middlebury is most likely on the outside looking in at that conversation. Head Coach Jeff Brown is not unfamiliar to playing on the road in the NCAA tournament though. In Middlebury's first and only trip to the Final Four in the 2010-2011 season, the Panthers received a bye in the first round and won its second game at home, before going on the road to win their next two games to advance to the national semifinals.

At the beginning of the season, the Panthers set their sights on returning to Salem, Maine, to play in the Final Four. Despite this recent losing streak, that goal is still within reach, provided history holds.

Seniors Daly, who has already left his mark on the Middlebury record books, Nick Tarantino '18 and Adisa Majors '18 certainly are not prepared to let the season and their careers end. They and the Panthers have won a lot this year, and lost some close games to tough teams. Still, it seems like the final chapter on the 2017-2018 Middlebury men's basketball team has not been written yet.

WOMEN'S HOCKEY USCHO.com POLL

RK	SCHOOL	RECORD	PREV.
1	NORWICH	22–1–3	1
2	PLATTSBURGH	21–2–2	2
3	ELMIRA	21–2–2	3
4	**MIDDLEBURY**	**17–4–3**	**4**
5	GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS	19–2–4	6
6	ADRIAN	19–5–1	7
7	WISC.–RIVER FALLS	17–5–3	5
8	ST. THOMAS	16–3–6	9
9	AMHERST	14–6–4	8
10	WISC.–EAU CLAIRE	15–6–4	NR

MEN'S BASKETBALL D3Hoops.com POLL

RK	SCHOOL	RECORD	PREV.
1	WHITMAN (25)	25–0	1
2	WASHU	22–2	2
3	ST. JOHN'S	23–2	3
4	WHITWORTH	22–3	4
5	WISC.-PLATTEVILLE	22–3	6
6	WITTENBERG	23–2	5
7	EMORY	20–4	7
8	WILLIAMS	20–5	9
9	AUGUSTANA	19–5	10
10	EAST. CONN.	22–3	11
11	SWARTHMORE	21–4	12
12	YORK	21–4	8
13	HAMILTON	22–3	15
14	WESLEYAN	20–5	17
15	ILL.–WESLEYAN	19–5	23
16	JOHNS HOPKINS	21–4	22
17	WOOSTER	20–5	16
18	**MIDDLEBURY**	**19–6**	**13**
19	WISC.–OSHKOSH	19–6	14
20	SALEM ST.	22–3	25
21	PLATTSBURGH ST.	20–4	NR
22	NICHOLS	22–3	NR
23	WISC.–STEVENS POINT	17–8	19
24	MARIETTA	20–5	NR
25	MIT	20–5	NR

Grace Kelly Charms

By MONIQUE SANTOSO
Contributing Writer

On Friday Feb. 16, 25-year-old Grace Kelly enchanted the campus with the passion of an old soul mixed with the dynamism and energetic movement of youth. She dressed in patterned leggings, a crop-top and her signature highlighted hair to matches her electric personality. She was joined by her quartet of pianist David Linard, bassist Julia Pederson and drummer Connor Kent.

As the lights dimmed and a full house applauded her greetings, she picked up her saxophone and began to dance in sync to her notes and the keys of her fellow performers.

ANAT GERSTEIN INC.

Grace Kelly graced the Robison Hall with vibrant and exciting music.

Kelly started with an upbeat jazz rendition that paired well with the exuberance with which she welcomed the audience, shared her feeling of connection with the Robinson Concert Hall, and noted how grateful she was that her parents drove from Massachusetts to watch her perform.

She sang the lyrics of her songs, "Count on Me" and the title track of her new album, "Trying to Figure It Out", with the passion and honesty of an individual who wants internal and worldly peace in a world filled with doubts, heartbreak and terror. Her magnetic delivery of the songs kept the audience swaying silently, clicking their fingers along with her and smiling at her lyrics.

Kelly said that her songs are about "people coming together and strangers becoming friends."

As she moved into another personal song with music from the comedian Charlie Chaplin, I began to empathize with her. This song was of a lighter quality and softly carried her the performance forward. The sensitivity of her voice as she talked to individuals who "needed more light today" was joined only by the chords of Linard's piano.

"Her ability to connect with the audience, irrespective of their life experiences and age makes her special," a community member said.

Without a doubt, Kelly's influences are as extensive as her musical repertoire. From the zesty tunes of "Lemons Make Lemonade" to the smoothness of a ballad dedicated to her father, the audience was absorbed in her delivery, spirit and vitality. To send her audience home dancing, she played high strung notes. She came back by popular demand to close with a tune familiar to all, "You Are My Sunshine."

A resident Bostonian, Kelly grew up in a family of classical musicians and attended Berklee College of Music. After touring Europe extensively over the past year, she asked that the audience stay tuned for her 11th album on PledgeMusic that she will be broadcasting online. The music she hopes to write is about the people who inspire her and all her supporters.

In an effort to bring jazz to a younger audience, Kelly launched a new weekly video series called "Grace Kelly PopUp" on social media in February 2017, which has already racked up over one million views.

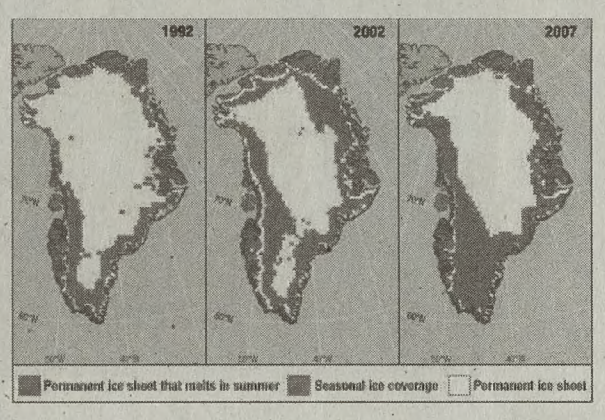
After the many standing ovations Kelly received on Friday, she held a jazz workshop for the budding jazz musicians of the college the following day.

"Follow your passion and chase your dreams relentlessly," Kelly told the Middlebury students on attendance." It was a sentiment her parents often told her and it continues to animate her artistic life.

Climate Change Guest Lecture

By SARAH HOLMES
Contributing Writer

On Friday Feb. 16, Dr. Barney Ellison came to the college to give a talk on climate change and renewable energy. Ellison received his Ph.D. in organic chemistry at Yale after studying biology at Trinity College in Connecticut. He is now a professor of organic chemistry at the University of Colorado at Boulder where he also runs an organic chemistry research laboratory. His recent interests are in climate science and the effects of aerosols.



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Ellison began the lecture by introducing the practice of chemical testing done to air particles to reveal what dangerous chemicals are present in the air, such as carbon dioxide and greenhouse gases. He then discussed the quantities and extent of damage done by such harmful gases and chemicals, showing the audience infrared spectroscopy graphs, which are used to analyze chemical compounds in the air.

Additionally, Ellison discussed the environmental effects of climate change, notably found in the melting of ice in Greenland. All of his findings about these effects were supported by his calculations of the quantities of chemicals in the air.

Ellison reminded the audience that within this century, the world could run out of fossil fuels for energy use and that it is up to students to find alternative energy sources to fix this problem. He proposed that solar and nuclear power would be the best sources of energy in the coming years, noting that France gets the majority of its energy from nuclear sources. However, he emphasized that a safer source of nuclear energy is needed before it can become more widespread.

Ellison also brought up the possibility of chemically removing greenhouse gases from the atmosphere, though he questioned the ability of this method to combat such an extensive problem.

With such a large Environmental Science program at Middlebury, Ellison's call to action hopefully resonated with many of the members of the science community. Ellison ended with a call to the scientific community to emphatically dedicate its resources and focus in on climate change research.

Colby Recieves Extensive Art Gift

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Another vitally important factor is donations.

"Gifts to Middlebury's museum are important, but they tend to be anecdotal rather than the result of a proactive process at the institutional level," Broucke said.

The cultivation of donors and gifts is a vital part of the functioning of self-sustaining museums, and large institutions have an entire department dedicated to this task. As is typical of larger museums, Colby has a "director of museum development." Middlebury does not.

"The gift to Colby, the result of a proactive cultivation of and targeted outreach to alumni and donors, will only speed up the transformative nature of its museum. The quality of the gift is extraordinary in both size and quality: Van Gogh, Rembrandt .... That, in turn, will make it even more attractive for prospective donors to give," Broucke said.

The Middlebury art museum, housed in a corner of the ground floor of the Mahaney Center for the Arts, is largely hidden from public view.

"It has long outgrown the spaces," Broucke said. "We also really need more space for developing our collections and operation into new directions, say African and South-American art, in line with our changing student body and our identity as a global institution."

In regard to cultivating donorship, "The thinking is a bit like 'if you build it they will come,'" Broucke said.

However, Colby's museum is not only notably for its collection and size. The recent gift's provision for the Lunder Institute for American Art also has the potential to drastically increase the value of the institution. It will create residency programs for graduate students, artists, scholars and curators to research American art, making it the only institution of its type among the NESCACs.

However, this dramatic increase to Colby's collection and research potential can also have a positive impact on Middlebury. NESCAMA (New England Small College Art Museum Association) — started by Middlebury, Colby, Bowdoin, Smith and Skidmore — now includes around twenty college museums which loan artworks to one another. NESCAMA has also created a consortium to make joint purchases. A few years ago, Middlebury, Colby, Bowdoin, Skidmore and Mount Holyoke jointly purchased a video work which will be shown at Middlebury's museum next fall. Middlebury has also made loans to Colby.

"I am sure [Colby] will welcome loan requests from any number of college Museums in the future. So, this recent gift to Colby is good news for all of us," Saunders said.

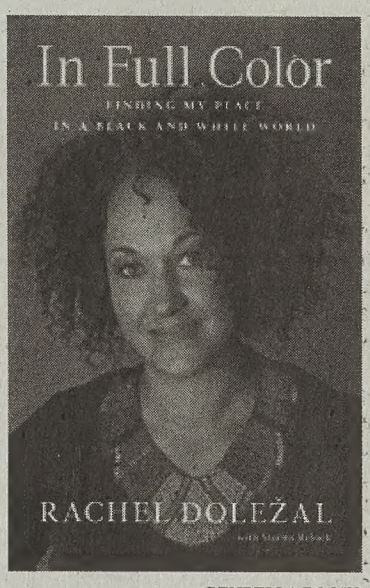
The Librarian Is In

By KATRINA SPENCER
Senior Columnist

Literatures and cultures librarian Katrina Spencer is liaison to the Anderson Freeman Center, the Arabic department, the French department, the Gender Sexuality & Feminist Studies (GSFS Program), the Language Schools, Linguistics and the Spanish & Portuguese departments. These affiliations are reflected in her reading choices.

"While I am a very slow reader, I'm a very critical reader," she says.

"In Full Color: Finding My Place in a Black and White World" by Rachel Dolezal



BENBELLA BOOKS

Pages: 270

Happy Black History Month!

THE WHAT

Back in 2015, a media firestorm erupted when "ethnically indeterminate" Rachel Dolezal, a woman who ran a local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in the Pacific Northwest, was caught in a strange conundrum: her biological parents were white but she claimed to be black. Dolezal's memoir, In Full Color: Finding My Place in a Black and White World, covers more than 35 years of her life, highlighting many of her identities and roles as someone born into poverty in Montana, a mother of black children, a mixed media artist, a historically black university graduate, a cancer survivor, an activist, an academic, a teacher, and... a [questionably] "Black" woman. Her story is told in 30 chapters and details the progression of events, affinities and experiences in her life that led her to identify as a racial minority despite her familial history falling outside of more traditionally accepted narratives of blackness. This is her attempt to clarify her stances on racial identity and to respond to her numerous critics who, over the last two years, have ridiculed her on a national scale, suggesting that her racial presentation was a farce.

THE WHY

As a black woman, an identity I hold that is hardly ever called into question given my stereotypical physical features and comparatively more typical background, I approached Dolezal's memoir with great skepticism, #allthesideeye. Many people in the "black community" decided a while ago that Dolezal was an impostor, concluding that she wasn't black and was electively living a lie. However, as I had the time to read her story and attempt to understand her positions over winter break, I took the opportunity to do so. To be clear, while I have *not* been convinced that she's a black woman, I found out that her story is not as simple as expected. Like many black women, Dolezal has black children and has shown herself to be committed to activism for the benefit of the black community. The contention, as I see it, lies in the fact that there is a difference between having lived experiences that are similar to a black woman's and calling oneself a "black woman." Her choice strikes me and her critics as cavalier and reductive. It is rare that I want to speak for the entire black community. Yet, in this scenario, I feel compelled to assert that while Dolezal's work to pursue justice for black causes is welcome, she can do it as a white woman. Race, as Dolezal suggests, is a social construct. It's weak in its very foundations and not supported by science. However, if we insist upon engaging it and the idea of blackness, as we do unquestionably in this nation and around the world, we need some meaningful and marginally delineated definitions. I doubt "blackness" means "born of European descendants and having acquired a degree from an historically black college." Stretching race and blackness beyond recognition has the potential to invalidate a marker of identity about which millions of people organize their fealty and families. And while policing blackness is hardly my favorite pastime, willfully abusing an inherently faulty label does not work either.

One of the features that's difficult about this work is its strong appeals to pathos that paint Dolezal as a perpetual victim. Her recounting of her life suggests that she has suffered many injustices in multiple scenarios. It is troubling, though, to see her heavy-handedly massage the "truth" in terms of race. This misstep ushers others towards questioning other accountings in her life. Is she a reliable narrator? I wrestled with this work more than any other in the short history of this column. It is well written, but overall I do not feel it advances the conversation on race. If there is one conclusion it has gestured towards, it is that race is a conversation, not a box that you check or a binary choice between two poles. For more on ethnic and racial identity, listen to the stories at go.middlebury.edu/inyourownwords. For black, women writers fitting a more traditional bill, try out the collection of poems, salt, by Nayyirah Waheed; tales of travel to Spain in the memoir Kinky Gazpacho by Lori L. Tharps; Longthroat Memoirs: Soups, Sex and Nigerian Tastebuds by Yemisi Aribisala; We Need New Names by NoViolet Bulawayo; the historical fiction novel Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi; or the short story collection Heads of the Colored People by Nafissa Thompson-Spires which will be out April 10th. For more on the phenomenon of racial passing, see Almost Black: The True Story of How I Got Into Medical School by Pretending to Be Black by Vijay Chokal-Ingam or the 1929 novel Passing by Harlem Renaissance writer and former librarian Nella Larsen.

DON'T MISS THIS

Kizuna Dance Performance

Cameron McKinney is a New York City-based choreographer, dancer, educator, and author. He founded Kizuna Dance in 2014 with the mission of creating works that celebrate the Japanese language and culture.

2/22, Thursday, 7 - 8:30 p.m., Manhaney Center for the Arts, Dance Theater. $15/12/8/6

Winter Carnival 2018 Ice Show: Force of Nature

The Ice Show features skaters of all ages and abilities, in a fun event filled with music and costumes. Cheer on the beginners and be dazzled by competitive skaters, including local guest stars and a pair who competed internationally for Team USA.

2/24, Saturday, 5 - 6:30 p.m., Chip Kenyon Arena. $6

Porsha O: Spoken Word Poet

Author and curator of "Anthology Bundle: On Dystopia & On Finding Joy" Porsha O is also the 2014 Individual World Poetry Slam Champion. Join us for an hour of amazing spoken word poetry. End your Black History Month the lit way.

2/27, Tuesday, 7 - 8 p.m., Wilson Hall. Free

Numerous School Records Fall at New Englands

EMMA STAPLETON

Nicholas Hendrix '20 and Jimmy Martinez '19 relax after crossing the finish line in third and fourth place, respectively, in the 200-meter dash.

Women Finish Third, Martinez Wins 400

By JORDAN HOWELL

The Middlebury track and field teams competed in their first championship meets of the indoor season last weekend in DIII New Englands. The women's team was in action last Saturday, Feb. 17, while the men's side hosted the meet in Virtue Field House last Friday and Saturday, Feb. 16–17. The women's side finished third with a score of 73, and the men's side finished fourth with a score of 83.

On the women's side, Williams came in first and MIT came in second with scores of 149 and 127, respectively.

Overall, Middlebury competed hard throughout the meet. In the 200-meter dash, Kate McCluskey '18 came in third place with a time of 26.09, setting a new school record in the race. McCluskey came in second place in the 400-meter dash with a time of 57.52.

Other highlights included the efforts of Meg Wilson '20 and Brianna Bisson '18 in the 800-meter run, in which they placed second and third place, respectively. Wilson had a time of 2:16.75 and Bisson had a time of 2:18.88.

With a time of 17:41.50, Talia Ruxin '20 received second place in the 5000-meter run. Middlebury placed in third in the distance medley featuring Katie Glew '21, Gretchen McGrath '21, Olivia Mitchell '20 and Kate MacCary '19. The group clocked in with a time of 12:19.27. On the "field" side of things, Helene Rowland '20 threw a distance of 12.19 meters to place third in shot put.

On behalf of the men's side, Jimmy Martinez '19 remarked how he had never seen his teammates put in an effort like they did last weekend.

"The team competed harder than I've ever seen them compete before," Martinez said. "I'm so proud of every one of my teammates for giving it everything and for bringing so much energy. We knew that hosting a championship meet was not something we get to do all that often, and I could tell everyone brought a little extra juice because of that."

Ahead of the men's team was Tufts with 110 points, MIT with 97 points, and Williams with 92.50 points.

Martinez and Nick Hendrix '20 came in second and third place in the 200-meter dash with times of 22.40 and 22.42. Martinez also captured first place in the 400-meter dash with a time of 48.66.

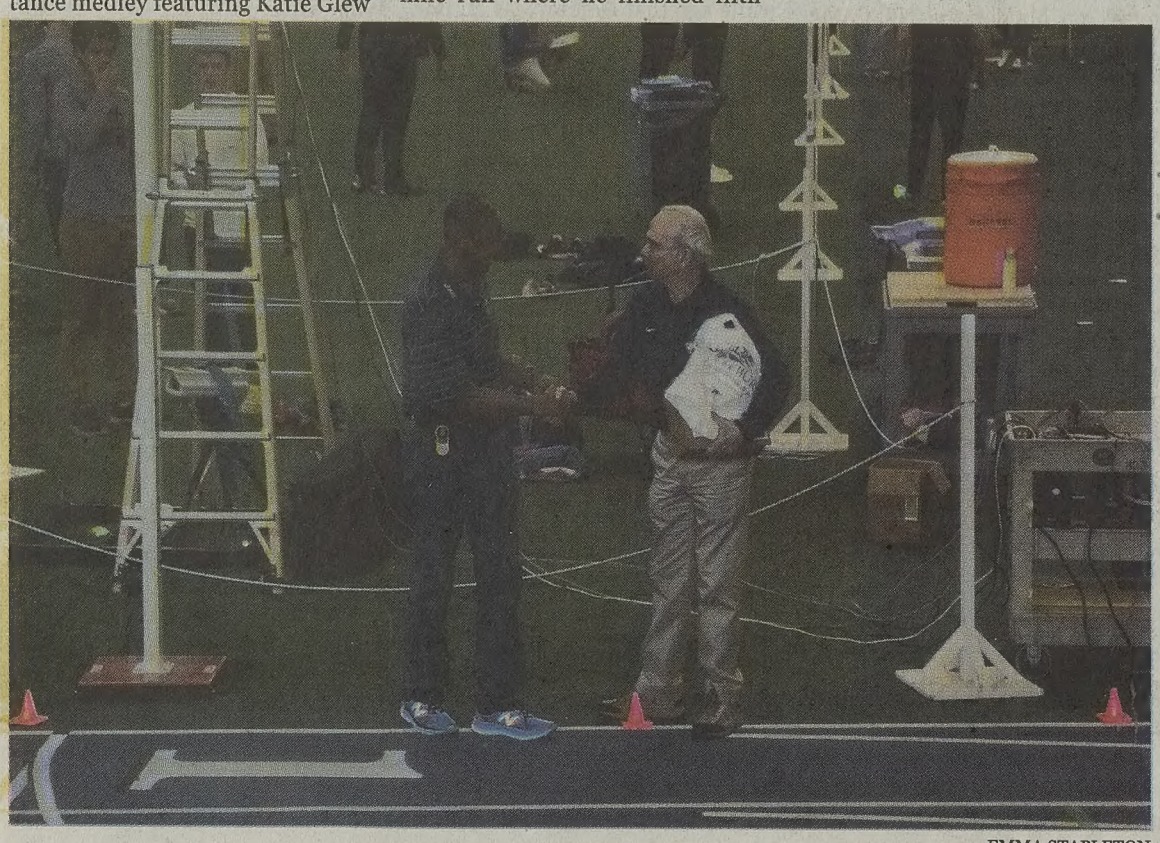
Kevin Serraro '18 competed in the 1000-meter run where his recorded time was 2:32.11, good for a fourth-place finish, and the one-mile run where he finished fifth with a time of 4:16.71.

Middlebury's A team for the 4X400 relay — composed of Martinez, Mathew Durst '21, Tyler Farrell '18 and Cam Mackintosh '20 — came in second place with a time of 3:21.57, while the Panthers' A team for the distance medley included Jon Perlman '19, Paul Malloy '18, Nathan Hill '20 and Will Meyer '20 who captured first with a time of 10:21.57. Also, Minhaj Rahman '19 threw 17.22 meters to come in fourth in the weight throw.

Martinez spoke of how the team is looking even more enthusiastically toward upcoming meets given their performances last weekend.

"The team sees now what it takes to be the best in New England," Martinez said, "whether that be individually or as a team. Individually, many of us (especially the young guys) see just how close they are to being great. I tell my sprinter group that the work will pay off, and that they just have to trust it. As for the team, we see now just how balanced we are."

Both the men's and women's teams will compete at home in the Middlebury Track Carnival tomorrow and Saturday, Feb. 23 and 24, which will take place in the Field House.



EMMA STAPLETON

Head track and field coach Martin Beatty '84 shakes hands at Virtue Field House before last weekend's meet.

Women's Swimming & Diving Takes Seventh at Nescacs

EMMA STAPLETON

The Kelly twins '21 (far left and second right), Harper Baldwin '19 (second left) and Maya Gomez '20 (far right) pose after swimming a relay. The 200 free relay team of Francis VanderMeer '20, Maya Gomez '20, Erin Kelly '21, and Stephanie Andrews '18, managed to complete their heat in 1:34.75, which qualified them for an NCAA B-cut time.

WOMEN'S SWIMMING CAPS SEASON AT NESCACS SOME LOOK ON TO SWIM AT NCAAS

By LAUREN BOYD

Last week, Feb. 16–18, the women's swimming and diving team headed to Williamstown, Massachusetts, to take part in the Nescac Championship in which they took seventh place. Williams Ephs took home the gold for the fifth year in a row. Two school records fell for Middlebury thanks to the efforts of Maya Gomez '20 and Frances VanderMeer '20.

Gomez started off the meet on a high note for the Panthers with her 50-breaststroke time of 29.14. The top finisher in this event at Nescacs in 2017, Gomez took home the top spot for the second consecutive year. This not only provided momentum for the Panthers, but also for Gomez, who broke the school's 100-breast record the next day.

These record-breaking performances began with VanderMeer though, whose 23.51 time in the 50 free unseated the nine-year-old record, set in 2009, that belonged to Emily McDonald '11. However, it is not as if no one saw this kind of effort coming from VanderMeer.

Throughout the year VanderMeer has acquired many first-place finishes and impressive performances. It almost seems as though the record was bound to fall to the swimmer. This time would hand VanderMeer second in the Nescac and NCAA B-cut mark along with the school record.

VanderMeer also completed a second NCAA B-cut performance on Sunday in the 100 free with a time of 51.70, where she placed second for the Panthers.

Gomez's record-breaking performance in the 100 breaststroke on Saturday was also B-cut-worthy for NCAAs. With a time of 1:02.92, Gomez conquered the record of 1:03.07 set in 2013 by Jamie Hillas '15. Her second-place finish in the championship race (1:03.89) earned Gomez All-Nescac honors.

Other NCAA B-cut performances came courtesy of the 200 free relay team, who put up a strong showing on Friday night. Comprised of VanderMeer, Gomez, Erin Kelly '21, and Stephanie Andrews '18, their B-cut time of 1:34.75 placed the relay in 5th place.

On the boards, Elissa DeNunzio '18 also finished in 5th place with 426.30 points, good for another B-cut score in the 1-meter competition. On Sunday, DeNunzio competed in the 3-meter competition, where she placed 6th. After the meet, the Panther diver was awarded the Nescac's Senior High-Point Diver, which no previous Panther diver has ever received.

The seventh-place finish by the Panthers, mixed with the record-breaking performances, proved a solid Nescac meet for Middlebury. Next weekend, Feb. 23–25, the men's team will travel to Bowdoin's pool in Brunswick, Maine, to compete in their half of Nescacs.